

J.T. KRUL | Dinna WU | Yuyan SONG | Alex KONAT | Mark ROSLAN | John STARR | Sal CIPRIANO



NINJA

北性路

#1

OF 6
COVER A



J.T. KRUL | Dinna WU | Yuyan SONG | Alex KONAT | Mark ROSLAN | John STARR | Sal CIPRIANO



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NINJAY

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“Soul Searching”

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It's an impressive sight. To see how far we have come as a species. To understand all that we have accomplished.



Fire.

Steam.

Electricity.

The microchip.

Nuclear fusion.



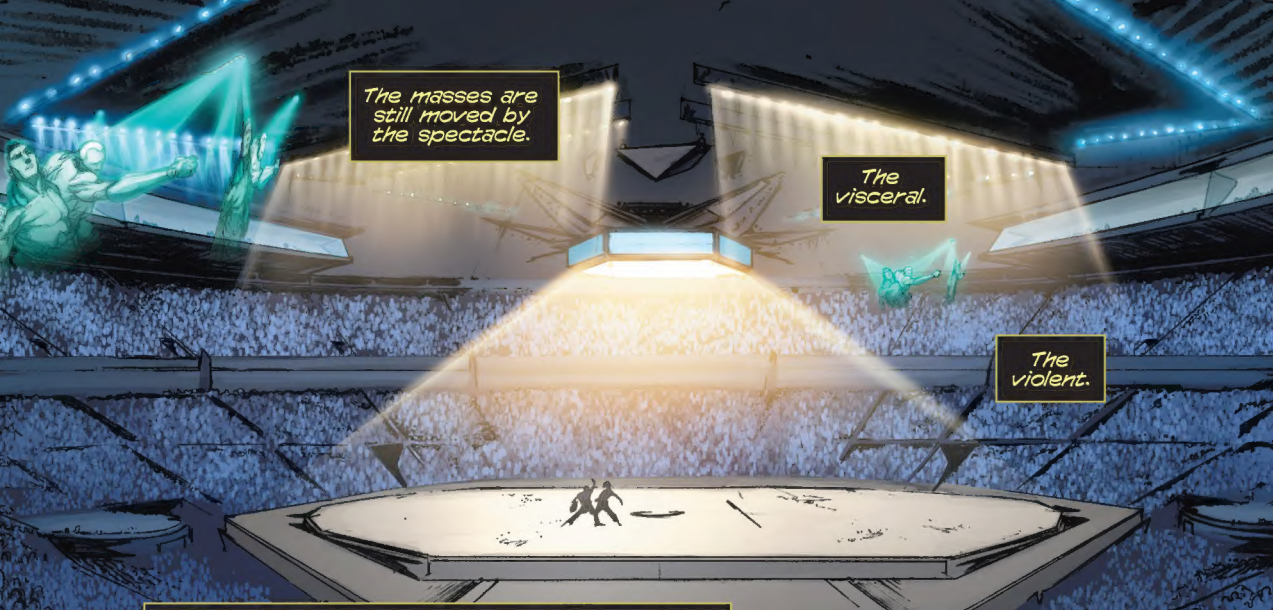
Who would have dreamed we could ever reach such heights?



Still, given all that progress-- all those advancements...

*...We haven't
really evolved.*



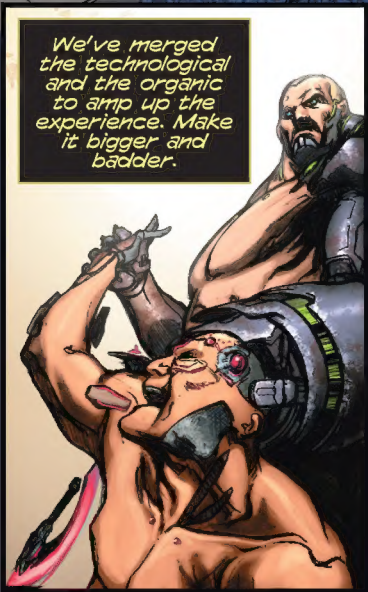


The masses are still moved by the spectacle.

The visceral.

The violent.

They eat it up. Embracing the distractions from whatever shortcomings their own lives may hold.

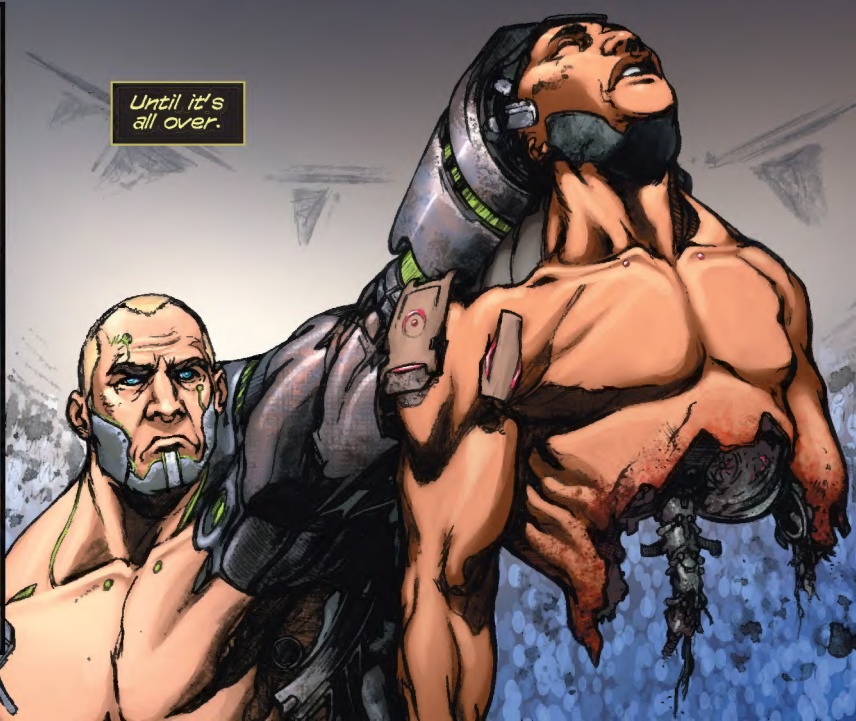


We've merged the technological and the organic to amp up the experience. Make it bigger and badder.



So much so that it's gotten hard to tell where the machine ends and the man begins.

Until it's all over.



TEAM JAGUAR TRAINING COMPLEX.

And believe it or not, that's the ultimate goal for me.

To stand in the arena. To face certain death.

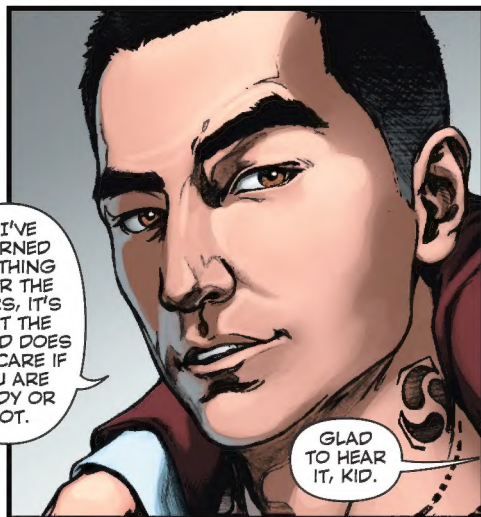
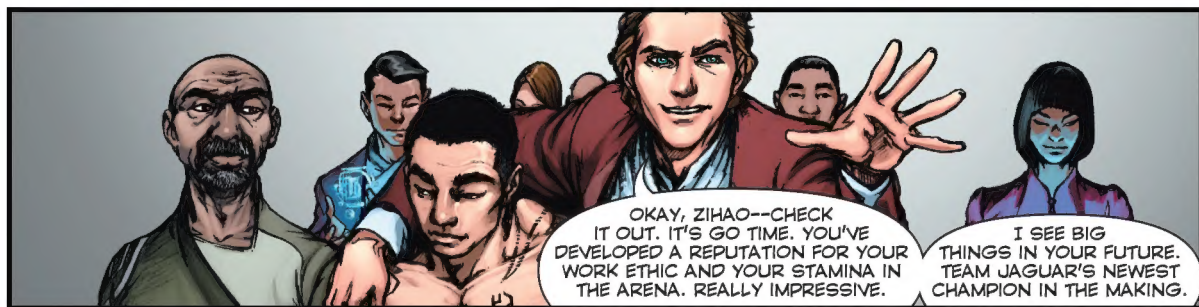
We're all in the same boat. Fighting for a chance at a better life.

Literally.

I've gotten this far. With a little luck, I'll make it all the way.

NOT BAD, ZHAO.







"NOW, LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED."

WHAT DO YOU THINK, JASPER?

OH, LIN IS ALWAYS TALKING TOUGH, TRYING TO ACT TALLER THAN HE IS. HE'S A BLOWHARD.

总理林尧通过贸易
PRIME MINISTER LIN FI

NOT LIN. I'M TALKING ABOUT THE NEW BANNER. THE YELLOW AND BLACK.

I DIDN'T NOTICE, LEI.

THAT'S WHY YOU WOULD NEVER SURVIVE IN THE WORLD OF MEDIA. IT'S ALL ABOUT ATTENTION TO DETAIL.

RESEARCH INDICATES A DESENSITIZATION TO THE OLD EMERGENCY RED. THE NEW ONE INVOKES IMAGES OF POLICE TAPE. DANGER AND DEATH.



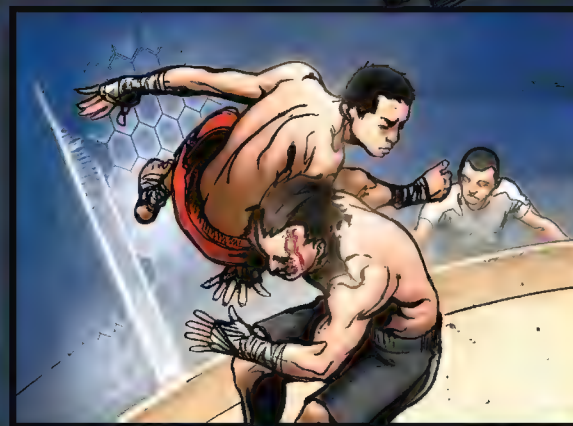
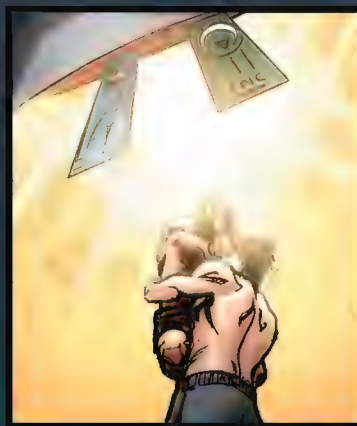
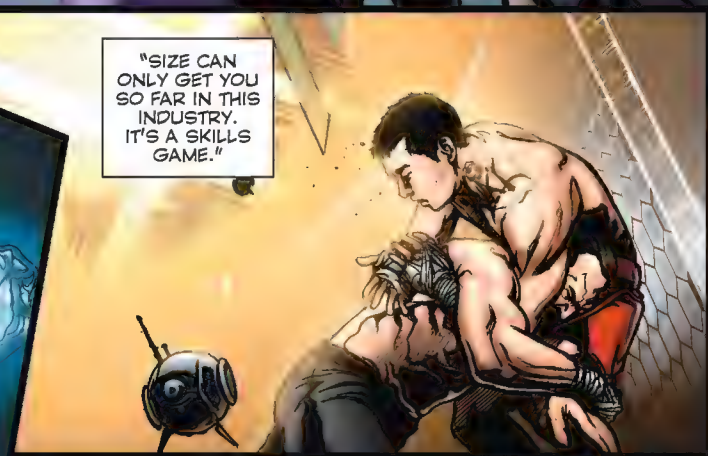
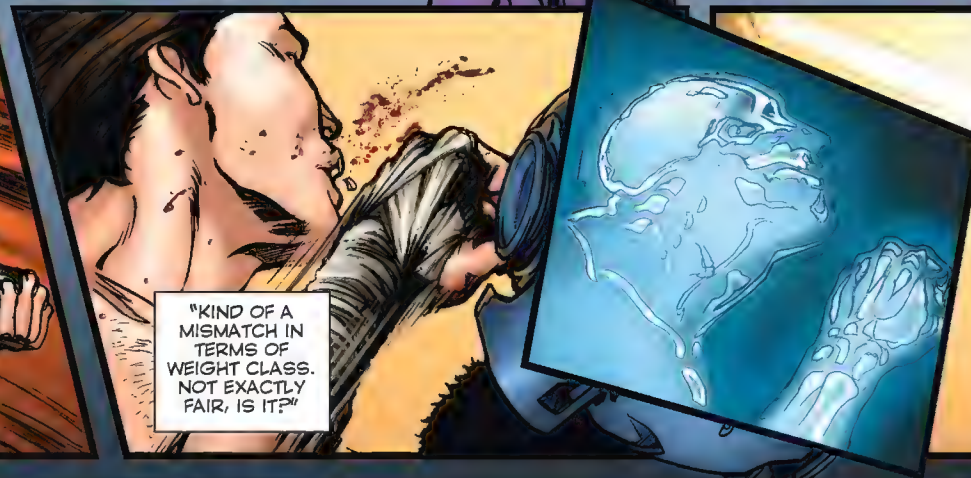
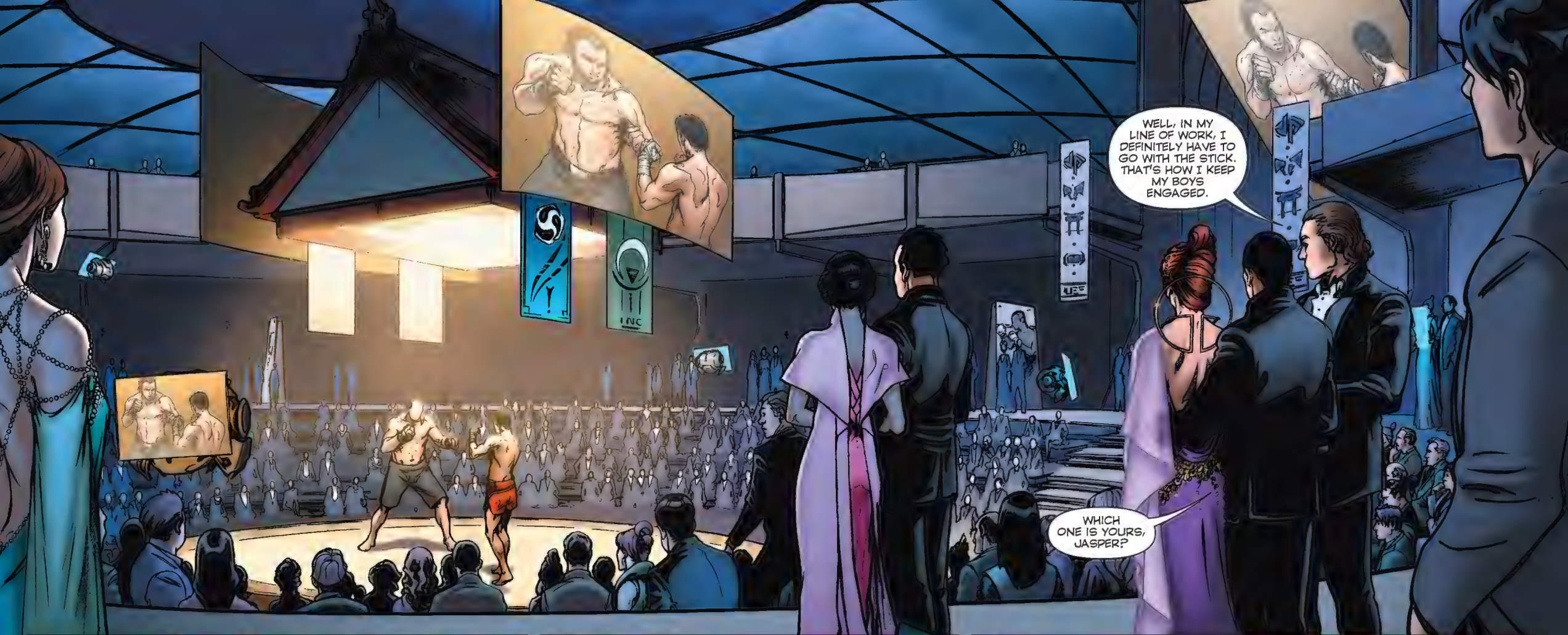
RED WORKS JUST FINE, IF YOU ASK ME. SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU SHOULD KEEP A TIGHTER LEASH ON YOUR GIRL.



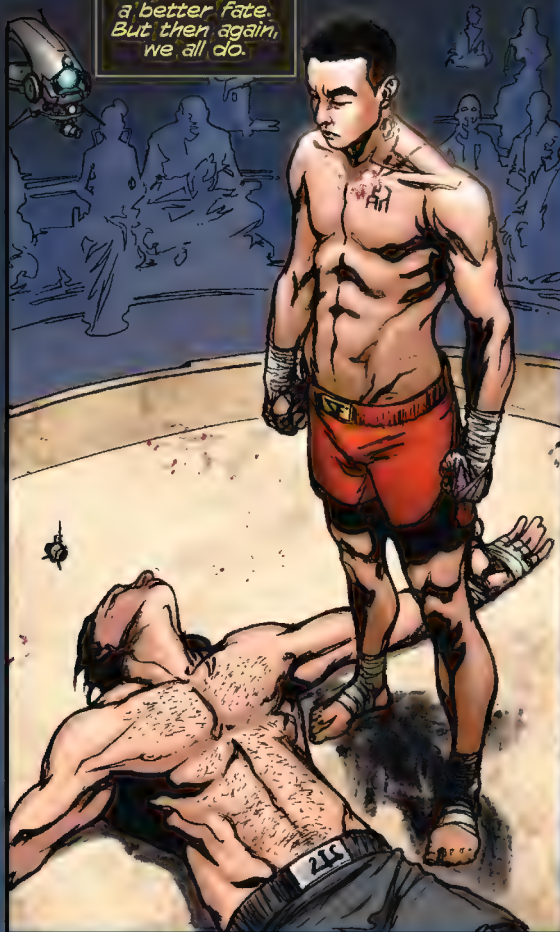
ALWAYS PREFERRED THE CARROT TO THE STICK WHEN IT COMES TO SUCH THINGS. RIGHT, CASSI?



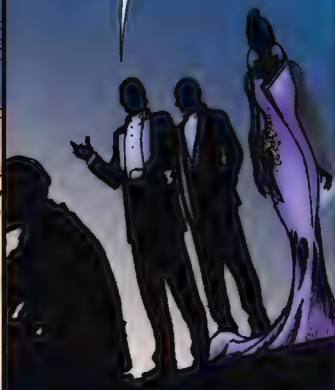
WHATEVER YOU SAY, LEI.



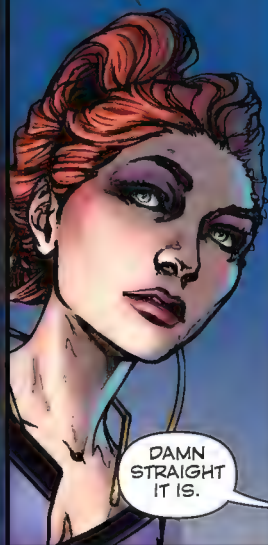
*He deserved
a better fate.
But then again,
we all do.*



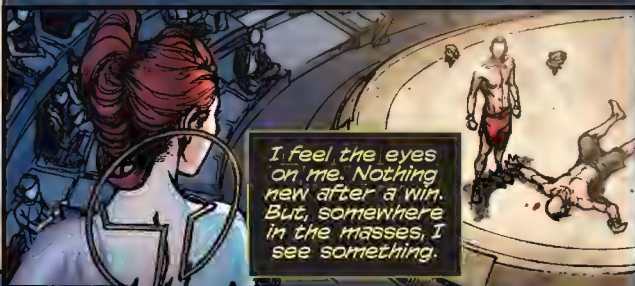
I KNOW THE
REAL ACTION IS IN
THE MAIN ARENA. THE TECH
WARRIORS. BUT...IN A WAY,
I PREFER THESE KIND OF
BARE-KNUCKLED BRAWLS.
IT'S WHERE YOU REALLY
LEARN THE TRUE
CHARACTER
OF A MAN.



IT'S ALL SO
BARBARIC.



DAMN
STRAIGHT
IT IS.

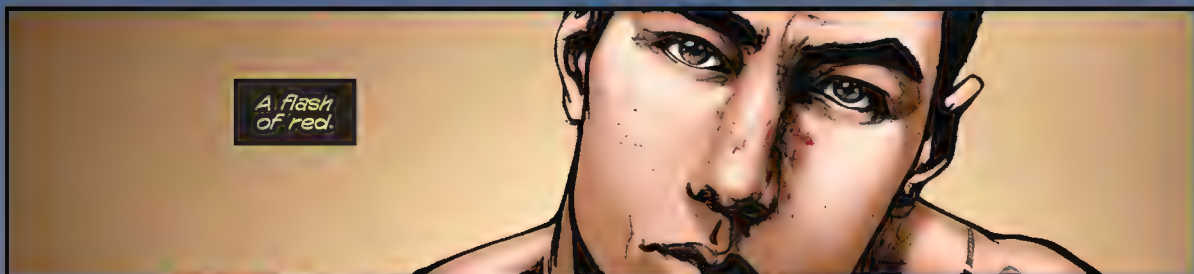


*I feel the eyes
on me. Nothing
new after a win.
But, somewhere
in the masses,
I see something.*

*An inkling of
familiarity.*

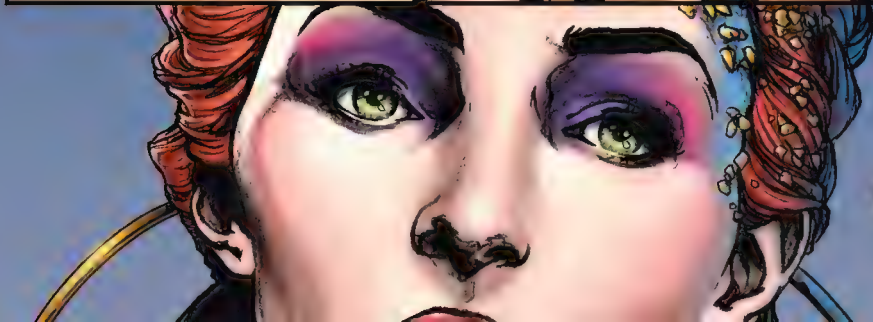


*A flash
of red.*



*A friendly
face.*

ZIHAO...





WHO DO YOU HAVE
LINED UP? NO, DUMP
THAT GUY. HE'S A LAPDOG.
DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO MIX
IT UP. GET HAI BOOKED FOR
THE SHOW. HE'S A FIERY
SABER-RATTLER. HE'LL
BRING THE
FIREWORKS.

AND DON'T
FORGET TO INCLUDE
SOMETHING ABOUT
MARKET FORECASTING.
UNCERTAINTY BREEDS
UNCERTAINTY.
INCREASES THE
DRAMA.



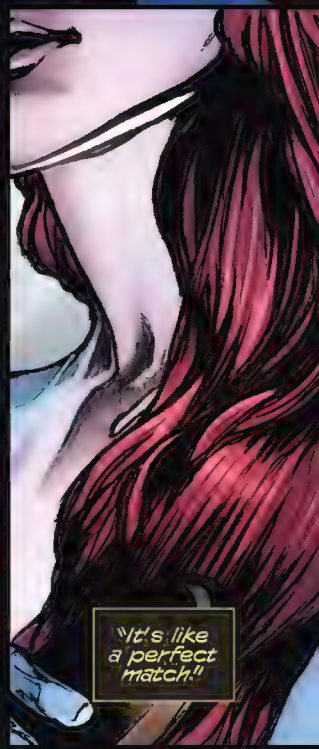
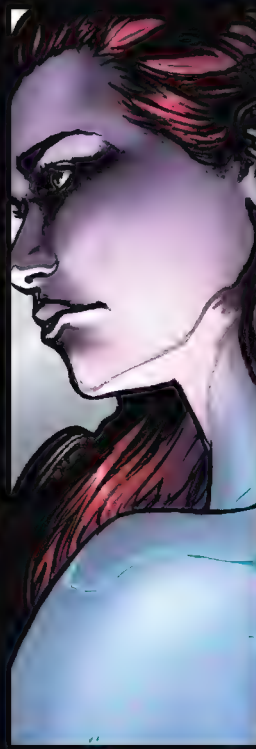
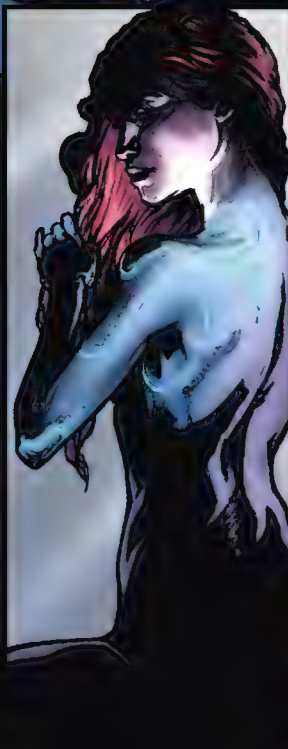
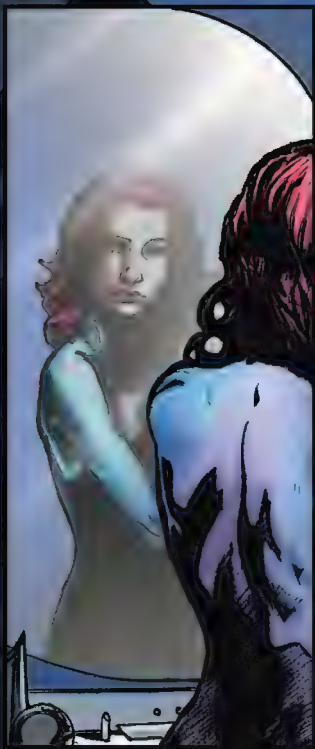
CASSI, YOU'VE
BEEN AWFULLY
QUIET FOR THE LAST
HOUR. EVERYTHING
OKAY?



I'M FINE.
JUST A LITTLE
TIRED.



WELL...
HOPEFULLY, NOT
TOO TIRED. AFTER
THIS CALL, WE GOT
BUSINESS OF OUR
OWN TO DEAL
WITH.



*"It's like
a perfect
match!"*



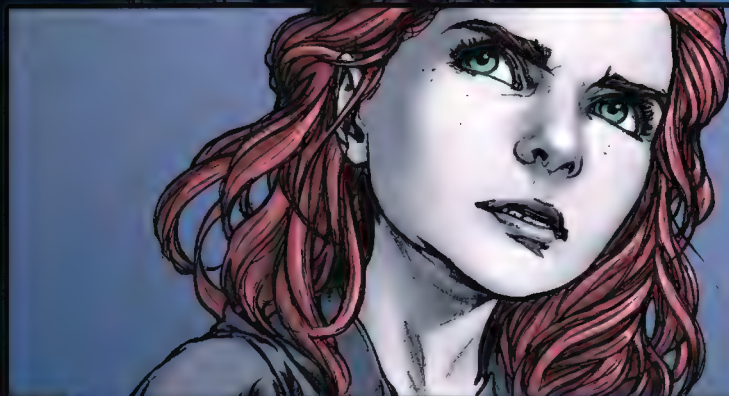
I DON'T
LOOK ANYTHING
LIKE HER.



MAYBE NOT
ETHNICALLY.



BUT I
DON'T KNOW,
CASSI.
SOMETHING
ABOUT IT.
MAYBE IT'S
THE EYES.



SCREW
YOU,
ZIHAO.



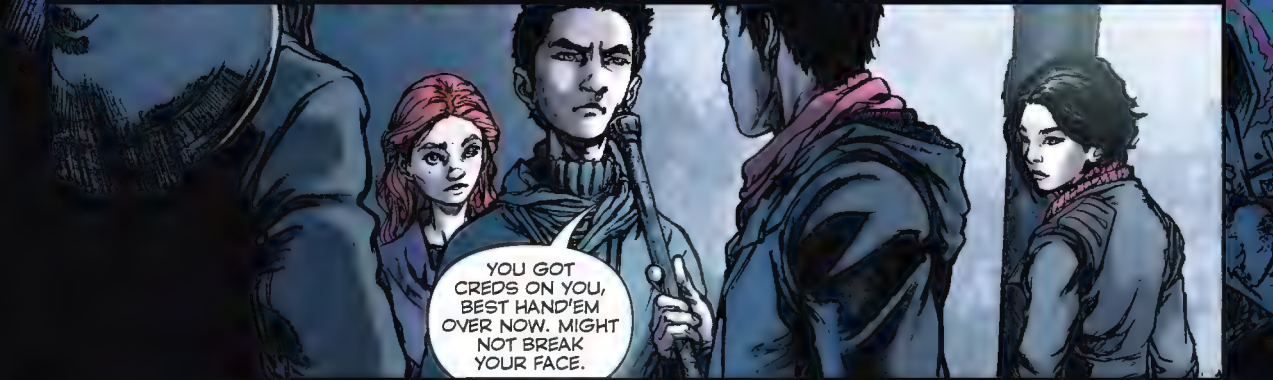
WHAT'D
I SAY?

YOU'RE
MAKING FUN
OF ME.

NO, I'M
NOT.

SURE
YOU ARE. ME
AND MY RED
HAIR.

I LIKE
YOUR HAIR.
IT'S COOL.







WHY
DO WE
ALWAYS
END UP
HERE?





"You're coming with me."

I'm still here.
Still fighting.



But in many ways, I had already given up.



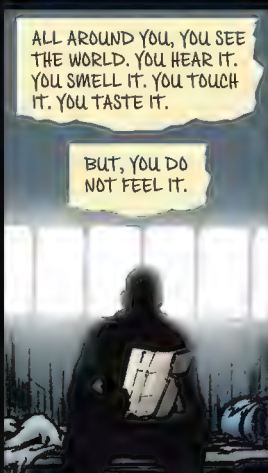
Didn't care about anything or anyone, including myself.



Seeing Cassi again, though gave me something I thought I lost long ago.

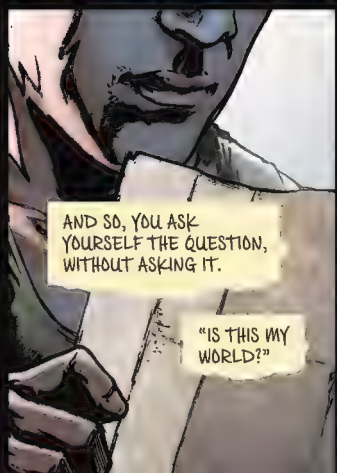


It gave me hope.



ALL AROUND YOU, YOU SEE THE WORLD. YOU HEAR IT. YOU SMELL IT. YOU TOUCH IT. YOU TASTE IT.

BUT, YOU DO NOT FEEL IT.



AND SO, YOU ASK YOURSELF THE QUESTION, WITHOUT ASKING IT.

"IS THIS MY WORLD?"

天
外
有
天
亦
幻
亦
真
心
有
所
想
夢
有
所
依
來
今
无
影
尋
道
有
踪
呼
吸
暢
快
神
明
自
得

THERE MUST BE
ANOTHER ONE. A
WORLD NOT BUILT
BY MAN.

ONE THAT CAME
BEFORE. ONE
THAT ENDURED.

A WORLD THAT LIVES
AND BREATHES. IN
OUR HEARTS. IN OUR
MINDS. IN OUR SOULS.

BEYOND THE NOISE.
BEYOND THE DISTRACTIONS.
BEYOND THE PETTY AND
THE PRIMAL.

BEYOND
YOURSELF.

A SOURCE OF LIFE AND
LIGHT. AND POWER.

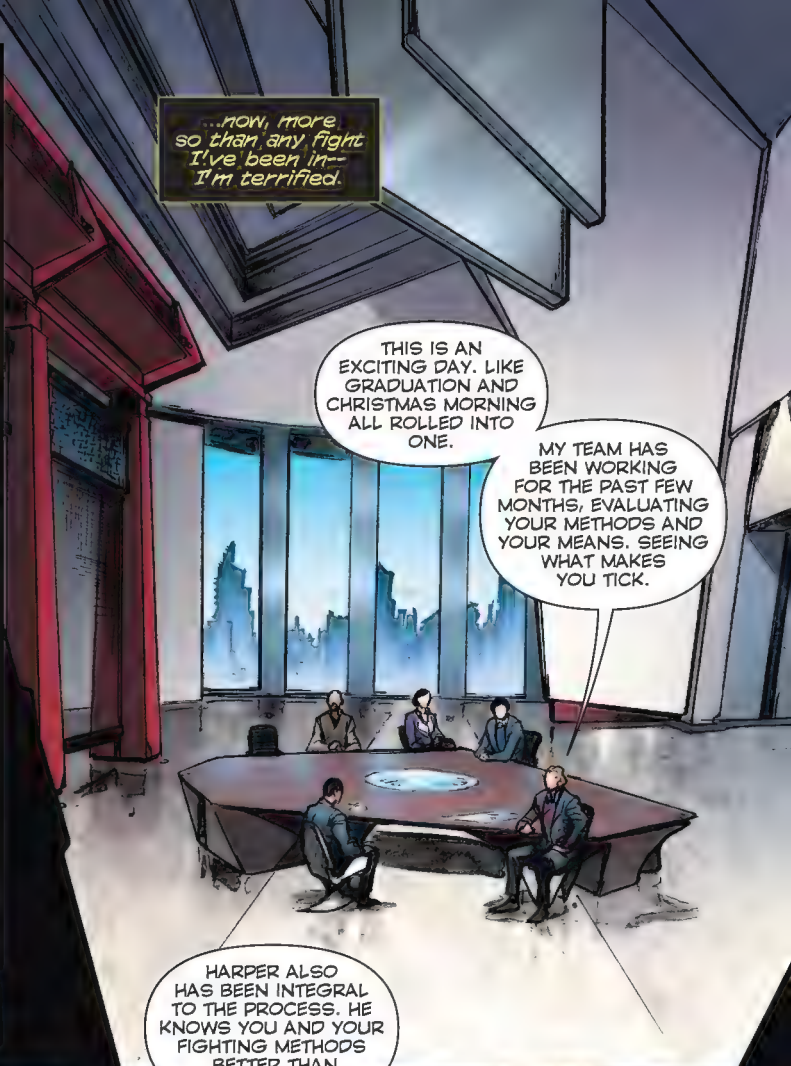
A NU WAY...

...IS WAITING
FOR YOU



*For years, this was
where I wanted to be.
What I wanted to
achieve. And now...*

*...now, more
so than any fight
I've been in--
I'm terrified.*



THIS IS AN
EXCITING DAY. LIKE
GRADUATION AND
CHRISTMAS MORNING
ALL ROLLED INTO
ONE.

MY TEAM HAS
BEEN WORKING
FOR THE PAST FEW
MONTHS, EVALUATING
YOUR METHODS AND
YOUR MEANS. SEEING
WHAT MAKES
YOU TICK.

HARPER ALSO
HAS BEEN INTEGRAL
TO THE PROCESS. HE
KNOWS YOU AND YOUR
FIGHTING METHODS
BETTER THAN
ANYONE.



I ALWAYS
LOVE THIS PART.
THE MOMENTS LEADING
UP TO THE UNVEILING.
THE EXCITEMENT; THE
ANTICIPATION--
IT'S UNREAL.



WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU
UNVEILING?

ISN'T IT
OBVIOUS?



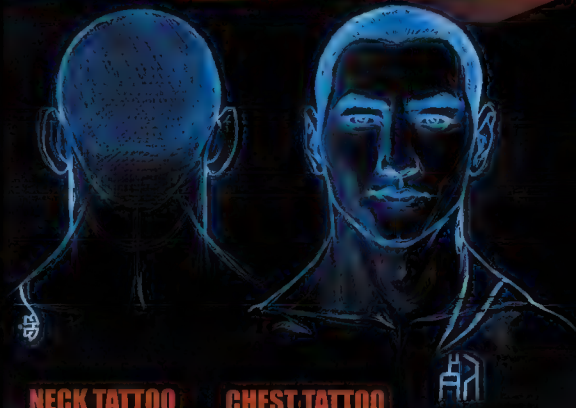
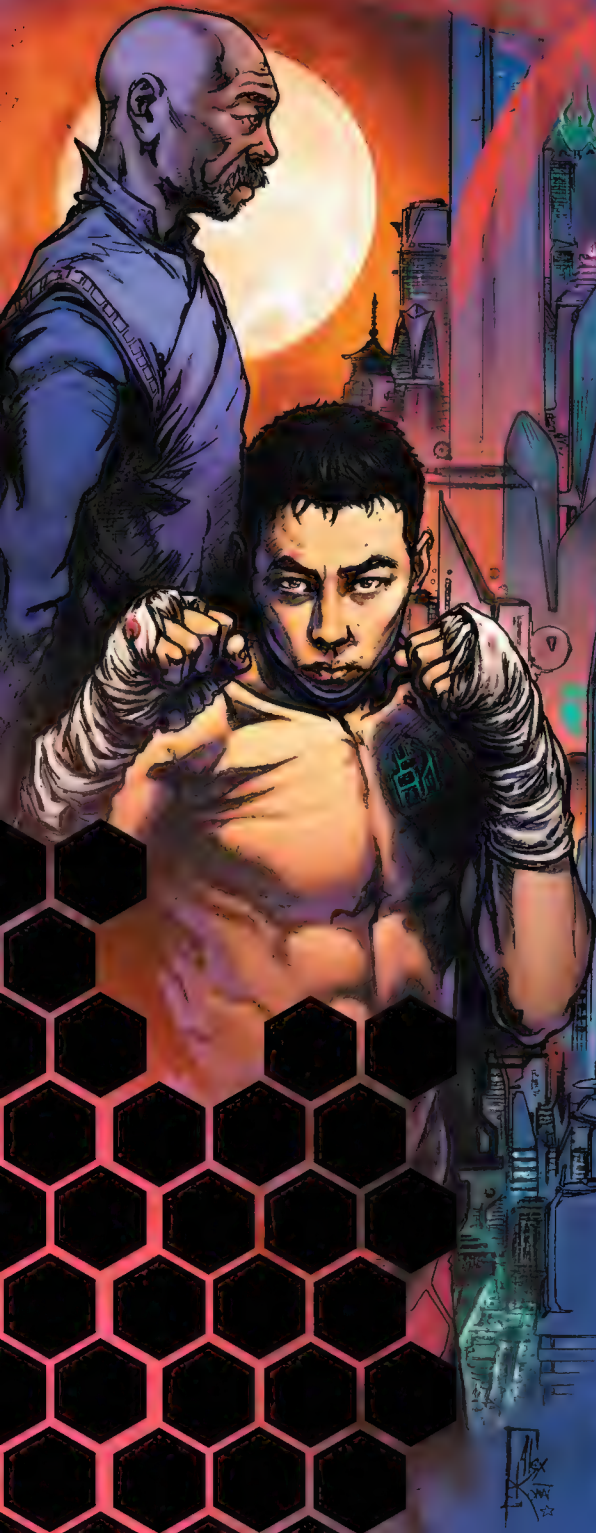


...THE
NEW
YOU.

TO BE CONTINUED...

The NuWay Design

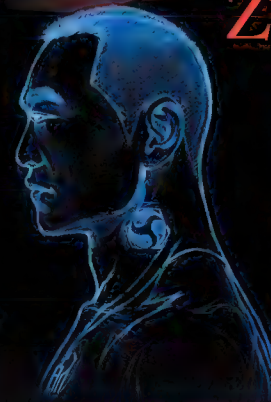
Visual Artist
Alex Konat



NECK TATTOO



CHEST TATTOO



SHOULDER TATTOO



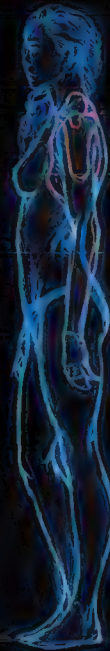
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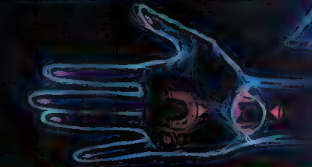
back



Cassi



Hand when using "phone"



Mark on right arm only



FRONT

Ear Front



TOP

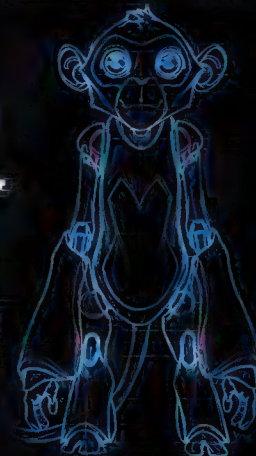


RIGHT

Ear Side



BACK



Monkey



KRUL WU SONG KONAT ROSLAN STARR CIPRIANO



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HARVEY MUIRBAO

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CHAPTER TWO

“Battle Scars”

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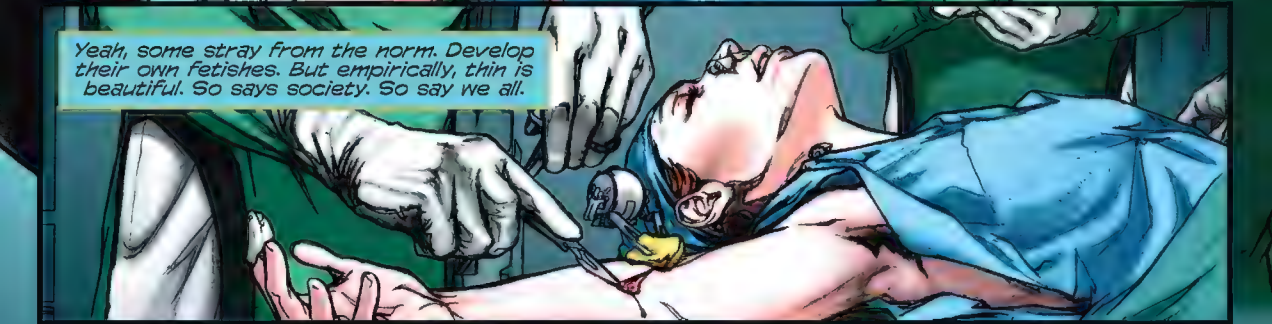
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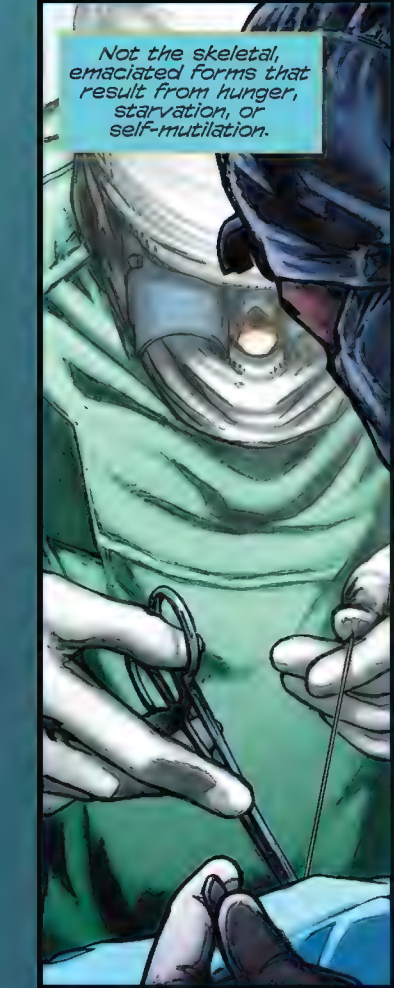


Growing up on the streets, I had to learn the facts of life on my own. Come to understand the hard truths. Including the most basic.

Men--they like their women thin.



Yeah, some stray from the norm. Develop their own fetishes. But empirically, thin is beautiful. So says society. So say we all.



Not the skeletal, emaciated forms that result from hunger, starvation, or self-mutilation.



Though, I remember those days.

No, I mean lithe limbs, without sacrificing any of the more desirable curves.



Biologically impossible, once upon a time.

But, today...

...It's the tip of the iceberg.

These spas are designed to pamper us. Make us feel special.

But, it is more like being groomed. Owned.

I don't see the perfection.

SKIN MAINTENANCE: S2. SUPER-SHEEN INFUSION. LOADED WITH BETA-CAROTENE, IRON, AND MAGNESIUM.

FACIAL STRUCTURAL UPGRADE. STEEL-ALUMINUM POLYMER, PROVIDING A SHARP, NARROW CONTOUR.

OCULAR REPLACEMENT. KALEIDOSCOPE EFFECT.

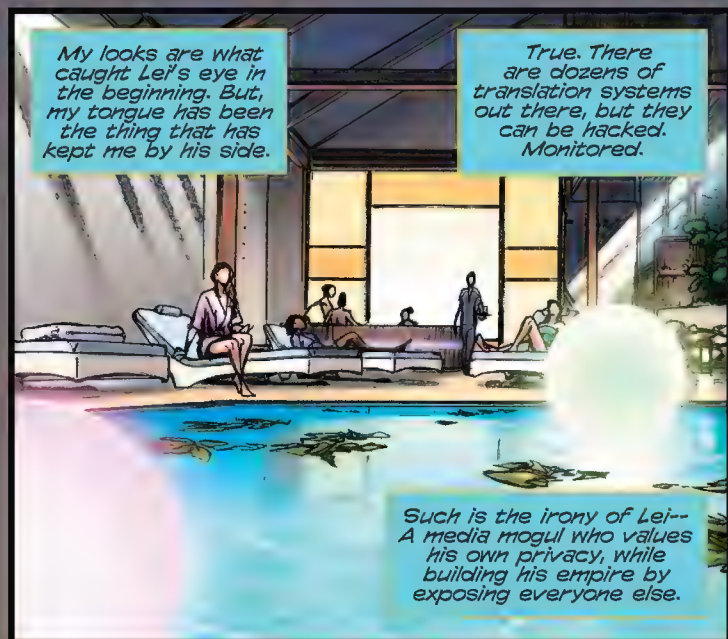
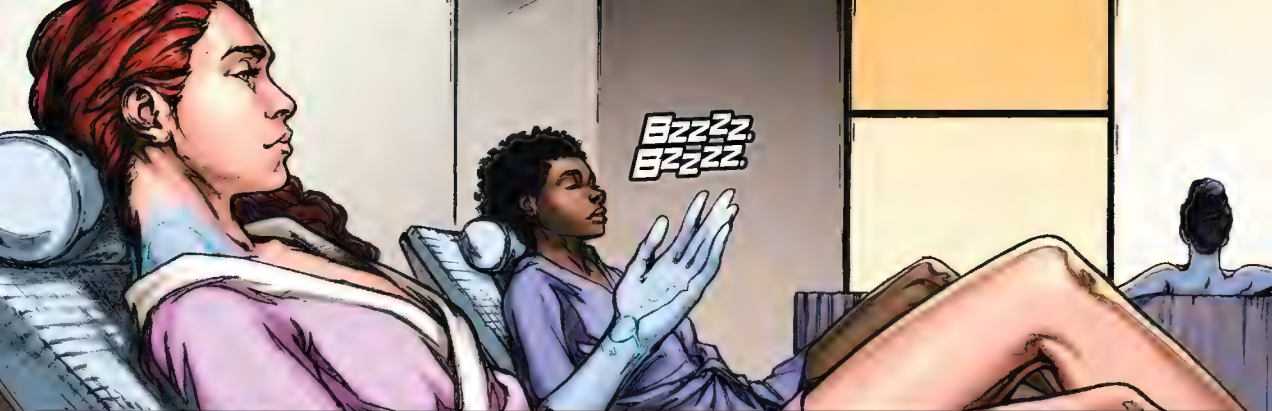
TENSILE FIBER MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM UPGRADE. LED AESTHETIC SYSTEM.

I see the price they paid.

The price we all paid.

In flesh. And blood.

To say nothing of our souls.



ULTIMATUM ARENA.

"THIS MAIN COMPLEX MAKES OUR TRAINING FACILITY LOOK LIKE AN OLD SHED. MUST BE TEN TIMES BIGGER."

THAT'S BECAUSE THE TALENT INSIDE IS TEN TIMES AS GOOD, ZIHAO. TEN TIMES AS POWERFUL.

I THOUGHT JASPER WAS ABOUT MORE THAN SIZE?

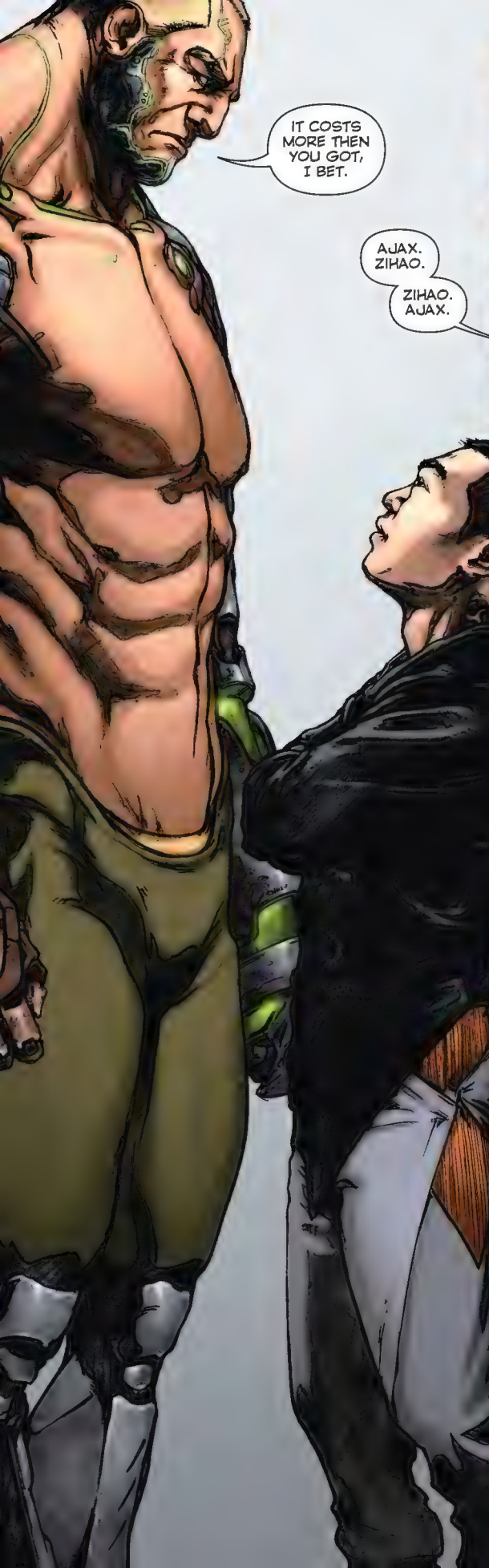
HE IS. BUT, YOU GOTTA HAVE SOME PRESENCE.

HARPER, YOU LOST OR SOMETHING?

DON'T TELL ME YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO GET OFF YOUR ASS AND STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT. KIND OF LATE, ISN'T IT?

I FORGOT TO MENTION, TEN TIMES THE EGO, TOO.

DOES THAT COST EXTRA?



IT COSTS
MORE THEN
YOU GOT,
I BET.

AJAX.
ZIHAO.

ZIHAO.
AJAX.



WHAT DO THEY CALL
YOU OUTSIDE THE
ARENA?

SIR.



OKAY, OKAY. NOT THAT THESE
LITTLE STAND OFFS AREN'T
ENJOYABLE AND ALL, BUT
THEY DO GET OLD QUICK.
SAVE IT FOR
THE FANS.

THIS
ONE'S ON
THE MENU?
SLIM PICKINGS
THESE DAYS,
EHP?

WAIT UNTIL
ZIHAO GETS HIS
UPGRADES, THEN
YOU CAN SIZE HIM
UP RIGHT AND
PROPER.



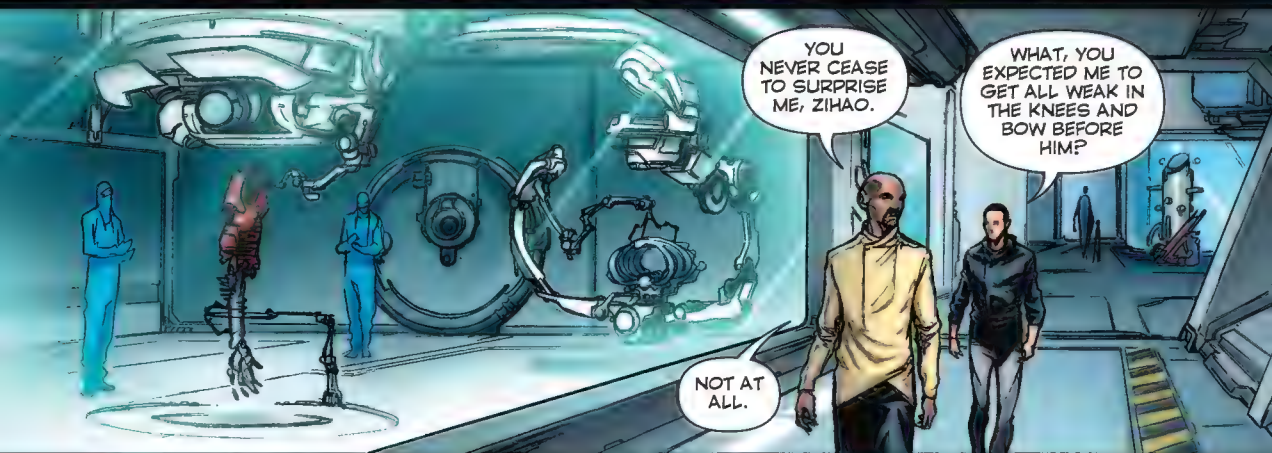
NAH. I
SEE ALL I
NEED HERE. ALL
THE MACHINERY
IN THE WORLD
CAN'T CHANGE
A THING ABOUT
THE MAN
INSIDE.

THE ARENA
DON'T BUILD
CHARACTER.
IT REVEALS
IT.



PROFOUND. I
HEARD THE SAME
THING FROM MY
FIRST GRADE
TEACHER.

ABOUT
DRAWING
WITH MY
CRAYONS.



YOU
NEVER CEASE
TO SURPRISE
ME, ZIHAO.

WHAT, YOU
EXPECTED ME TO
GET ALL WEAK IN
THE KNEES AND
BOW BEFORE
HIM?

NOT AT
ALL.



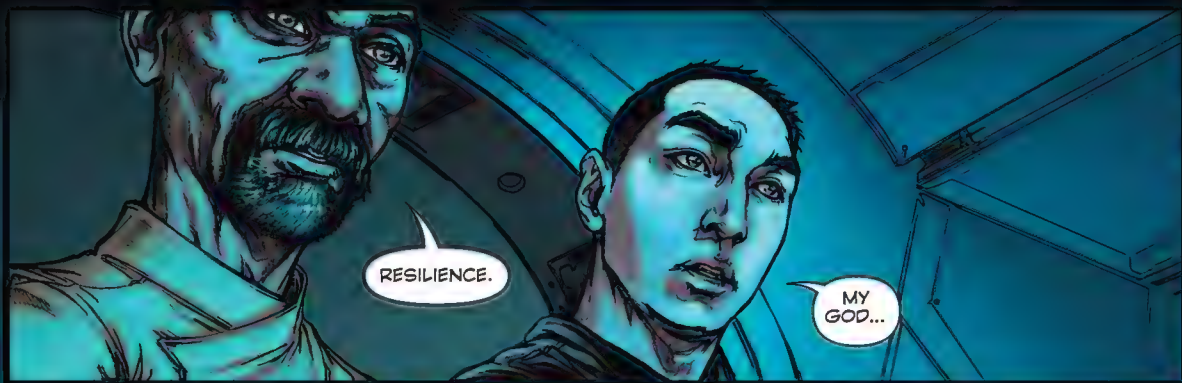
JUST NEVER
THOUGHT OF YOU
AS A TRASH-TALKER.
YOU USUALLY DON'T
GO IN FOR SUCH
SCHOOLYARD
TACTICS.



A GOOD
FIGHTER KNOWS
HIS OPPONENT'S
WEAKNESS.

BESIDES, YOU
SAID IT YOURSELF,
HARPER--AT THIS LEVEL,
IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO
MERELY BE A GOOD
FIGHTER. YOU GOTTA
HAVE PRESENCE.

I DID.
BUT, YOU'LL
ALSO NEED
SOMETHING
ELSE...



RESILIENCE.

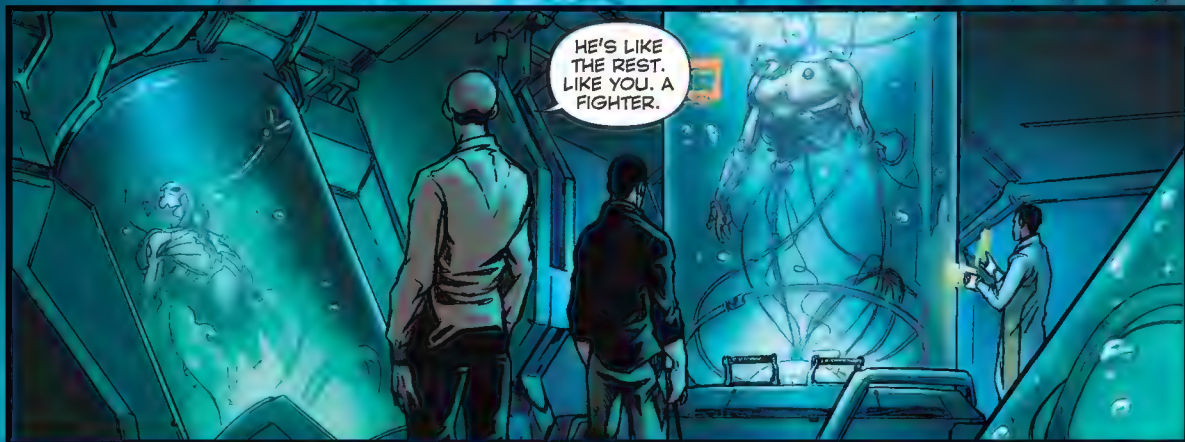
MY
GOD...

THUNDER
IS ALIVE? I
THOUGHT...I
MEAN...THAT LAST
FIGHT. IT SEEMED
LIKE AJAX ENDED
IT FOR HIM.

DEATH
DOESN'T COME
EASY AROUND
HERE. WHAT
ELSE WOULD
YOU EXPECT?



HE'S LIKE
THE REST.
LIKE YOU. A
FIGHTER.





YEAH,
BUT LOOK
AT HIM.
NOT MUCH
LEFT.

BELIEVE
IT OR NOT,
IT WORKS
BETTER THAT
WAY.

HOW
SO?



WELL, HE
GOT RIPPED TO
SHREDS. TORN
APART--AND YET,
HERE HE IS.
GETTING READY
FOR THE NEXT
ROUND.



FLESH
AND BLOOD IS
VULNERABLE. THE
LESS YOU HAVE,
THE STRONGER YOU
ARE. THE LESS YOU
HAVE, THE LONGER
YOU SURVIVE.



IF YOU
CAN CALL THIS
SURVIVING.

WHAT
WOULD YOU
CALL IT THEN,
ZHAO?

I DON'T
KNOW...



"...PROLONGING
THE INEVITABLE".

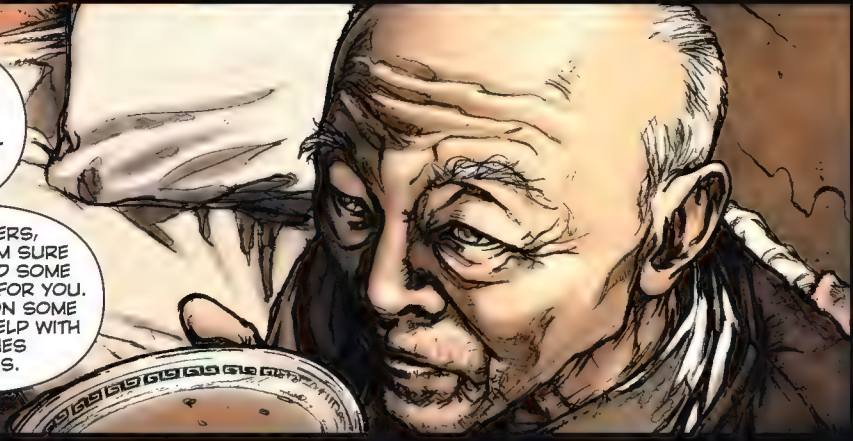


GOOD?

IT IS HOT.
THANK YOU,
ZIHAO.

SETTING
THE BAR PRETTY
LOW, AREN'T
YOU, LING?

NOT LOW.
EXACTLY WHERE
IT SHOULD BE.
MY NEEDS ARE
SIMPLE.



ACTUALLY, THAT'S
NOT TRUE. I MEAN--I'M
COOL HELPING WHERE I CAN.
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR
YOU LETTING ME CRASH HERE
THESE PAST FEW MONTHS, BUT
YOU GOT LOTS OF NEEDS
THAT AREN'T BEING MET.

FOR STARTERS,
YOUR EYES. I'M SURE
WE COULD FIND SOME
REPLACEMENTS FOR YOU.
NOT TO MENTION SOME
IMPLANTS TO HELP WITH
YOUR ACHE
AND PAINS.



AND THEN WHAT?
OTHER MEASURES,
I SUPPOSE.

WHATEVER
WE CAN AFFORD.
WOULDN'T YOU
LIKE TO BE BACK
UP ON YOUR
FEET?

ONLY
IF THEY
WOULD BE
MY FEET.



YOU MEAN WELL, ZIHAO. I KNOW THAT, BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN CARVING UP MY BODY AND REPLACING IT WITH SPARE PARTS.

THIS IS THE VESSEL I WAS BORN INTO. I'VE CARED FOR IT. NURTURED IT. FELT IT GROW OVER THE YEARS. EVENTUALLY, I SHALL EXPERIENCE ITS LAST MOMENTS.

LAST BREATHS. LAST HEARTBEATS.



FIGHT WHAT? MYSELF?

HOW MUCH OF MYSELF SHOULD I DESTROY IN ORDER TO CLING TO SOMETHING AS FOREIGN AS THE WORLD AROUND ME?

BUT, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO COME SOON. YOU CAN FIGHT. HOLD IT OFF FOR A BIT LONGER.



MAN HAS CREATED LAWS TO KEEP OTHERS FROM CAUSING US BODILY HARM-- AND YET, WE THINK SO LITTLE OF MAIMING OUR OWN SPIRITS?

WE GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO PRESERVE THE ANCIENT STRUCTURES FROM OUR CULTURE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CONDONING AND CELEBRATING THE DEFILEMENT OF OUR OWN TEMPLES.



THAT WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE OUR WAY.



AND, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE.

LATER.



WHATCHA
GOT
THERE?

NOTHING.



HOW'S THE OLD
MAN FEELING
TODAY?

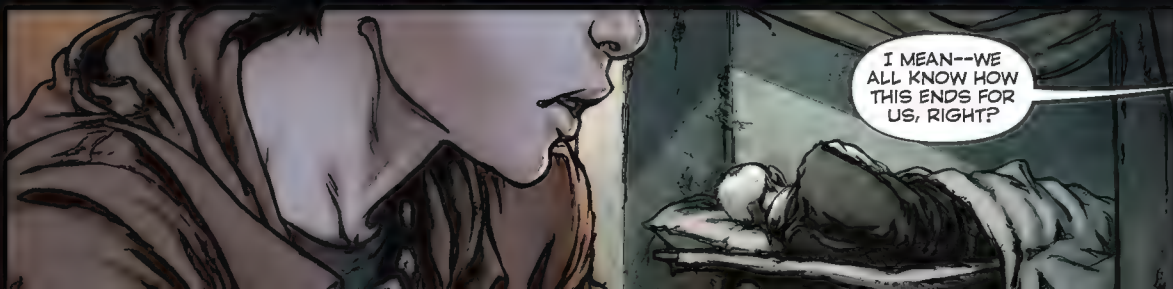
NOT GREAT,
CASSI. HE SLEEPS
ALL DAY. BARELY
EATS.

I WAS ABLE
TO SLIP A LITTLE
MEDICINE INTO HIS
SOUP, BUT IT'S NOT
ENOUGH. LING
NEEDS REAL
ATTENTION, BUT
WON'T DO IT.



OLD PEOPLE
GET SET IN THEIR
WAYS. NOTHING
YOU CAN DO
ABOUT THAT.

BESIDES--
MAYBE, HE'S TIRED
OF FIGHTING.



I MEAN--WE
ALL KNOW HOW
THIS ENDS FOR
US, RIGHT?

Never got to ask Ling at the end--as I watched him wheezing, gasping for air, coughing up blood--never got to ask him if he regretted his decision.



I can't lie and say that I didn't feel what he felt. Didn't believe what he did. But, feelings can only take you so far.

And they are just as likely to betray you, each and every step of the way.



Cassi was always the realist. She used to tell me, 'You know the difference between hope and a pipe dream?'

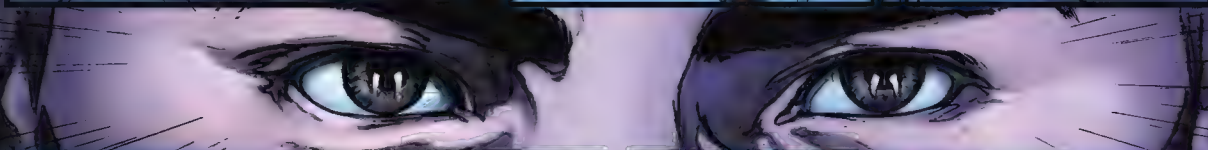
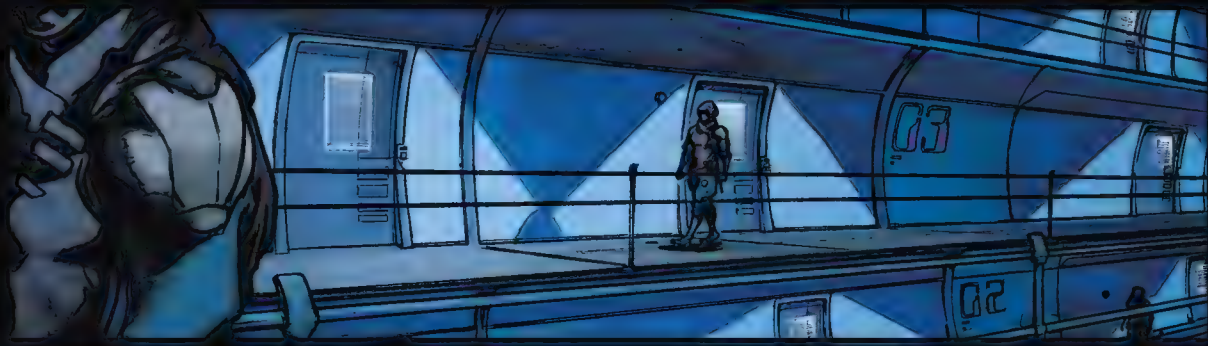


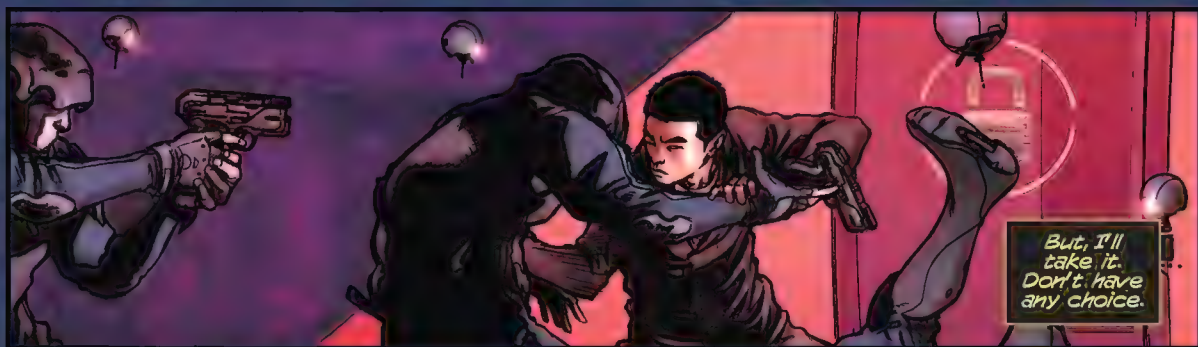
About four years. Five, if you are really stubborn!



Guess she was off by a few years.







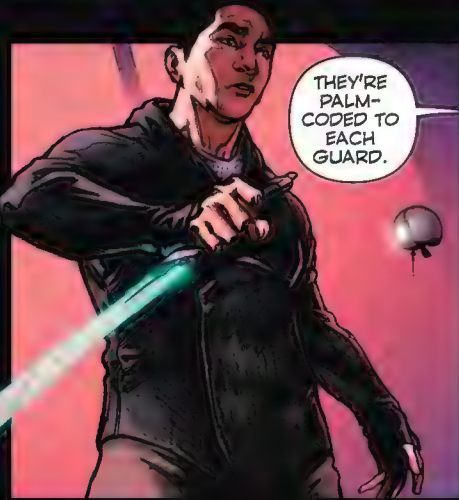


THEN AGAIN,
WE ALWAYS DID
STRUGGLE TO FIND
SOMEONE THAT
COULD CHALLENGE
YOU.

I CAN'T DO IT,
HARPER. I WON'T
LET THEM TAKE
AWAY ANY PART OF
ME. NOT WITHOUT
A FIGHT.



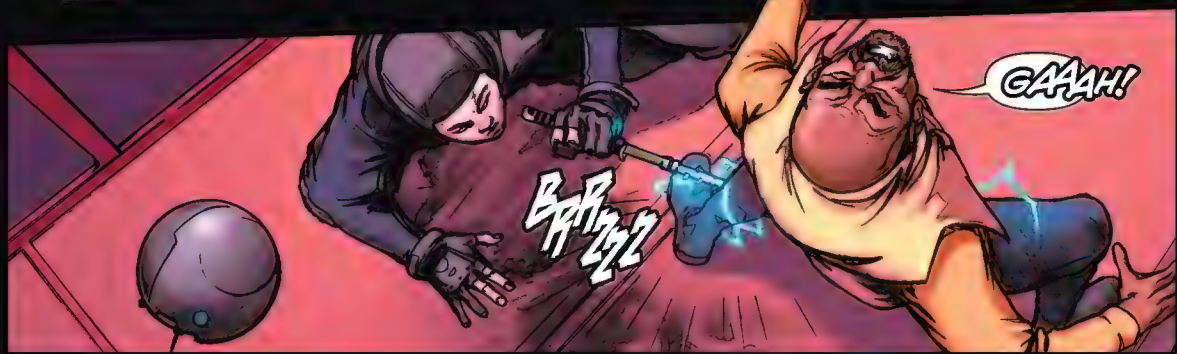
I KNOW,
BUT THAT
GUN CAN'T
SAVE YOU,
ZHAO.



THEY'RE
PALM-
CODED TO
EACH
GUARD.



WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO
GO OLD
SCHOOL TO
GET YOU OUT
OF HERE.







WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NO SIGN OF THEM. THEY LEFT A TRAIL OF BLOOD AND BROKEN BONES!

HEY, JASPER. WHAT UP, MY MAN?

NOT NOW, LEI. I'M A LITTLE BUSY.

HEARD YOU HAD A RUCKUS. WHAT HAPPENED?



ONE OF MY RECRUITS BROKE OUT LIKE IT WAS A DAMN PRISON, AND ONE OF MY TRAINERS WENT WITH HIM.

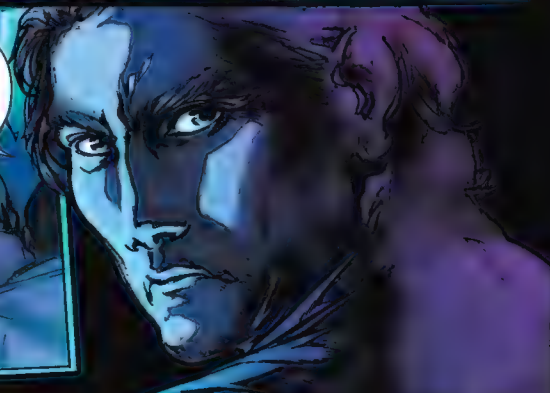
YOU WIN SOME, YOU LOSE SOME. THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM, RIGHT?

THIS ISN'T PART OF THE GAME. I'VE INVESTED IN HIM. IN BOTH OF THEM. THEY SIGNED THEMSELVES OVER TO ME. I AIN'T ABOUT TO TAKE IT ON THE CHIN.

I'LL GET THEM BACK. TRUST ME.



WHAT DO YOU SAY, QIANG? READY TO GET BACK ON THE BATTLEFIELD?





I NEVER
LEFT.

TO BE CONTINUED...

KRUL Diana WU Yuyan SONG Alex KONAT Mark ROSLAN John STARR Sal CIPRIANO



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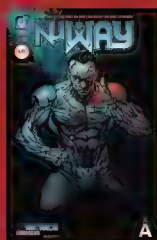
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CHAPTER THREE

“Urban Brawl”

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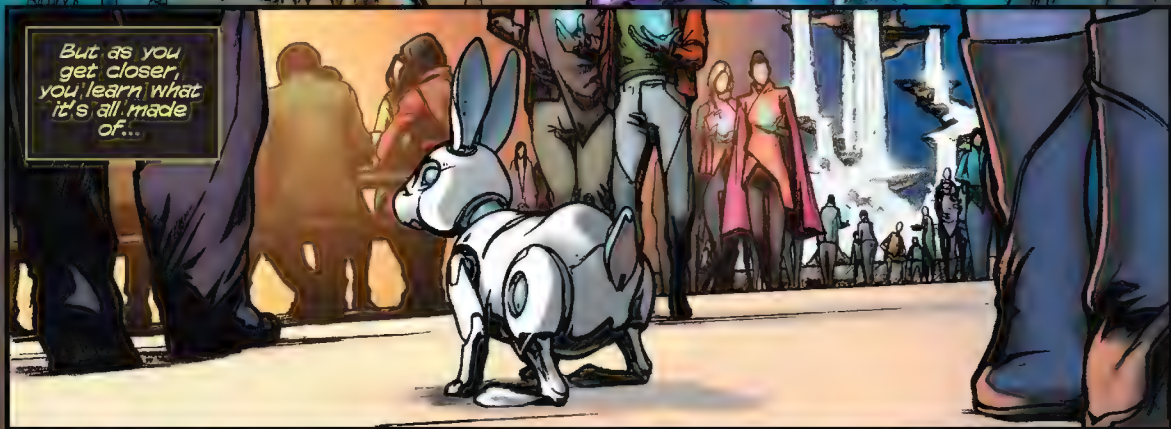
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Bright lights. Big city.
From a distance, it all
seems so magical. Like
a beacon, calling out to
the rest of the world.

A sign of progress. And
vitality. And opportunity.
A status to reach. A goal
to achieve. That's what
I used to believe.

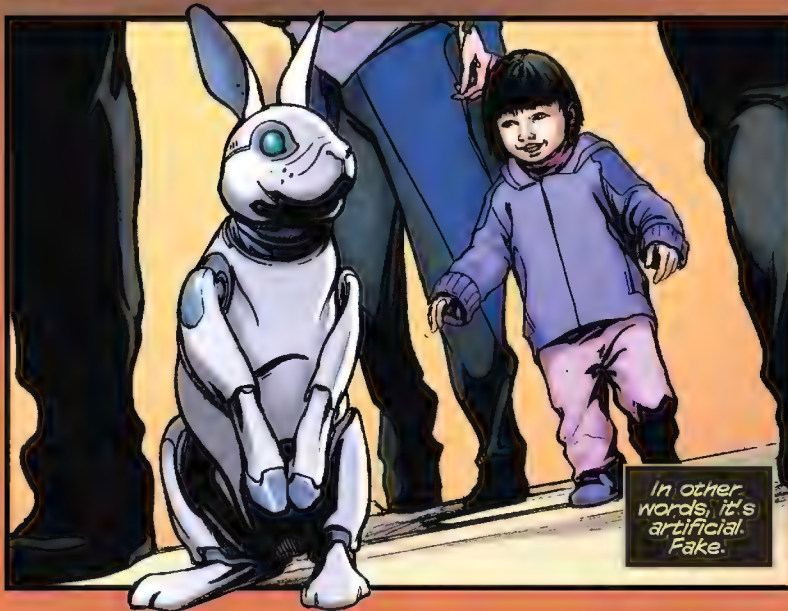
But as you
get closer,
you learn what
it's all made
of...



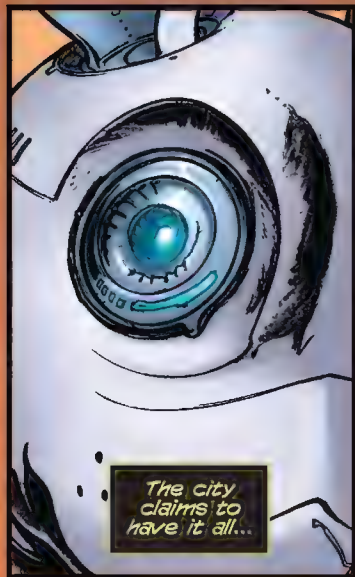
Steel. Plastic.
Circuitry.



In other
words, it's
artificial.
Fake.



The city
claims to
have it all...





...But, it has
no heart.



YOU OKAY,
ZIHAO?

CAN'T
FEEL MY
LEGS. BUT,
OTHER THAN
THAT...



GUESS THIS IS
AS GOOD A TIME AS
ANY TO SAY THANK YOU,
HARPER. IF IT WASN'T FOR
YOU, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T
HAVE MADE IT OUT OF THE
EAST WING, LET ALONE
THE COMPLEX ITSELF.



YOU
ALWAYS DO
SELL YOURSELF
SHORT. ALL I
DID WAS HELP
KICK OPEN A
FEW DOORS.



NOW, WHO
IS SELLING
THEMSELVES
SHORT?

TOUCHÉ.

HOW DID
YOU KNOW?
THAT I'D RUN.
WAS IT
OBVIOUS?



I'VE BEEN TRAINING YOU
A LONG TIME, ZIHAO. OF
ALL MY FIGHTERS, YOU
WERE THE ONLY ONE
THAT DIDN'T TALK
ABOUT THE
FUTURE.

DIDN'T BOAST
ABOUT YOUR
PREMIERE IN THE
BIG ARENA, OR
DREAM ABOUT ALL
THE UPGRADES YOU
WERE GOING TO
GET. YOU JUST
KEPT YOUR HEAD
DOWN--KEPT
PREPARING FOR
THE NEXT
FIGHT.



THIS
FIGHT.
THE REAL
ONE.

CENTRAL DISTRICT MONITORING AUTHORITY.

NOT MANY
CIVILIANS GET A PEEK
AT THIS MAINFRAME,
JASPER. YOU'RE LUCKY
YOU GOT CONNECTIONS.
AND BY THAT, I MEAN
YOU'RE LUCKY *I* GOT
CONNECTIONS.

IT'S
QUITE A
SIGHT,
LEI.

THOUSANDS
OF CAMERAS
THROUGHOUT THE
CITY, CHRONICLING
EVERYBODY, DAY
AND NIGHT.

KIND
OF MIND-
NUMBING TOO.
OVERWHELMING.
NEEDLE IN A
HAYSTACK
COMES TO
MIND.

THAT'S
WHERE THE FACIAL
RECOGNITION COMES
INTO PLAY IN ORDER TO
FIND YOUR DESERTERS.
THE PERFECT MAGNET.
IN YOUR NEEDLE/
HAYSTACK
ANALOGY.

ID #3857210

SIFTING
THROUGH THE
CLUTTER...
UNTIL...

MATCH!

BINGO.



YOU'RE BEING
AWFULLY QUIET,
ZIHAO. STILL
TRYING TO FIGURE
OUT HOW YOU
GOT HERE?



NO.
WONDERING
ABOUT YOU,
ACTUALLY. I KNOW
WHY I LEFT. BUT,
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHY DID YOU COME
WITH ME?



I GOT MY
START TRAINING DOGS
TO FIGHT. I HATED IT, BUT
IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO
SURVIVE. THE WHOLE TIME
I FELT SORRY FOR THOSE
ANIMALS BECAUSE I KNEW
THEY DIDN'T ASK FOR THAT
LIFE. THEY WERE FORCED
INTO IT. EXPLOITED BY
THEIR HANDLERS.
BY ME.



BUT, IT WAS LIE.
TRUTH IS--YOU'RE NO
DIFFERENT FROM THEM
DOGS. DIDN'T WANT TO
GET INTO THE ARENA.
DIDN'T WANT TO FIGHT.
BUT, YOU WERE
TRAPPED TOO.



AND ME?
I WAS NO
TRAINER. I WAS
JUST A BUTCHER.
FATTENING YOU
ALL UP FOR THE
SLAUGHTER.

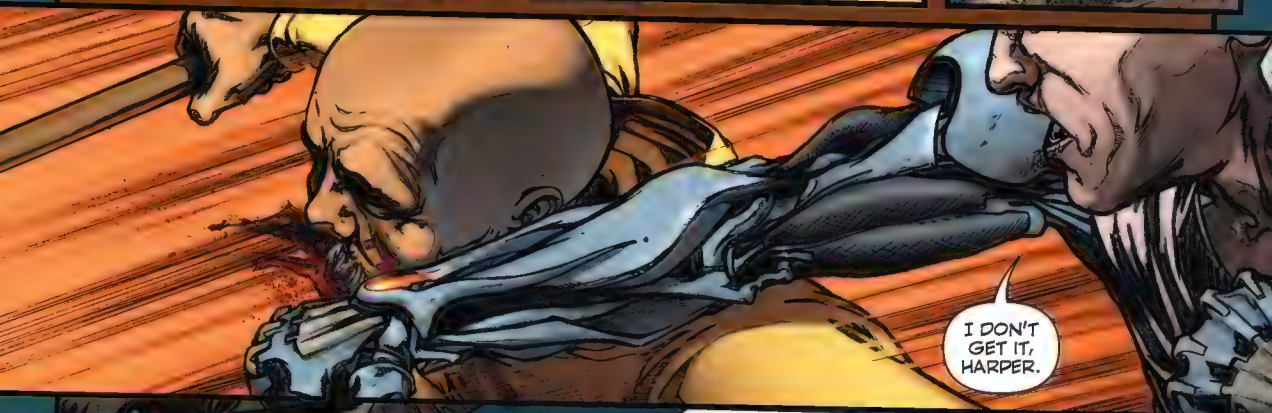
GUESS I'M
HERE BECAUSE
I COULDN'T
WATCH YOU GET
TORN TO PIECES
LIKE ALL THE
OTHERS.



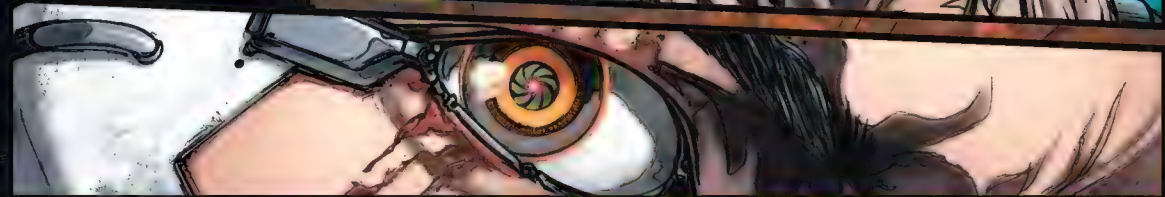
OKAY,
FELLAS...











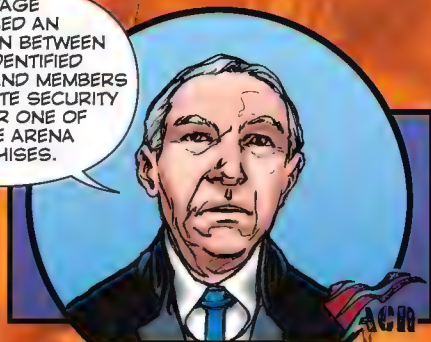
VIOLENCE
BROKE OUT
LAST NIGHT IN
THE TRENCHES,
RESULTING IN
A MASSIVE
EXPLOSION...

...LATEST
REPORTS ESTIMATE
SEVERAL FATALITIES
WITH DOZENS MORE
INJURED.



紧急救援人员和调查人员正
Emergency crews and rescue workers are o

FOOTAGE
REVEALED AN
ALTERCATION BETWEEN
TWO UNIDENTIFIED
INDIVIDUALS AND MEMBERS
OF THE PRIVATE SECURITY
FORCE FOR ONE OF
THE ELITE ARENA
FRANCHISES.



bombing in the lower cit
在底层城市的爆炸



死亡人数仍不确定
Death toll still uncertain after

SO FAR,
NO OFFICIAL
RESPONSE FROM TEAM
JAGUAR ABOUT WHAT
LED TO THE VIOLENCE,
BUT RUMORS ARE THAT
A RECENT RECRUIT HAS
GONE ROGUE AND IS
LEAVING A TRAIL OF
CARNAGE AS HE
TRIES TO AVOID
APPREHENSION.



周边发生严重骚乱
CHAOS OUTSIDE THE RING : te



WHAT THE HELL, LEI?!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO HELP ME OUT SO I COULD RESOLVE MY DILEMMA DISCRETELY. NOT END UP SPLASHED ALL OVER YOUR MEDIA PLATFORMS.

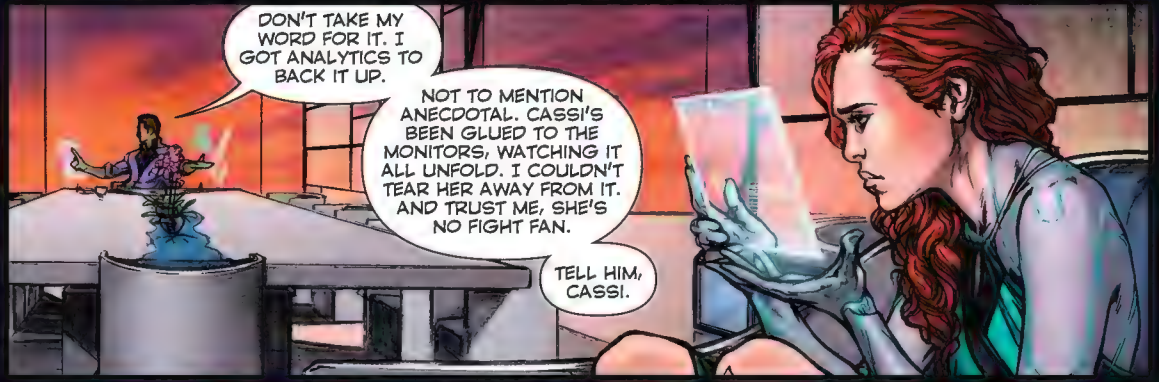


JASPER...BUDDY. YOU'RE SEEING THIS ALL WRONG. THIS ISN'T A PUBLIC RELATIONS NIGHTMARE FOR YOU. IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY.

UP UNTIL NOW, YOUR EVENTS HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO THE CONFINEMENT OF YOUR ARENAS. BUT, HERE THEY ARE NOW--SPILLED OUT INTO THE REAL WORLD. WITH REAL STAKES. SERIOUSLY, YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER CAMPAIGN.



I SWEAR TO GOD, IF YOU SAY THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS BAD PUBLICITY, I'M GOING TO COME OVER THERE AND PUNCH YOU IN THE FACE.



DON'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT. I GOT ANALYTICS TO BACK IT UP.

NOT TO MENTION ANECDOTAL. CASSI'S BEEN GLUED TO THE MONITORS, WATCHING IT ALL UNFOLD. I COULDN'T TEAR HER AWAY FROM IT. AND TRUST ME, SHE'S NO FIGHT FAN.

TELL HIM, CASSI.



AREN'T YOU JUST DYING TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

YES. I AM.

YEAR'S EARLIER.

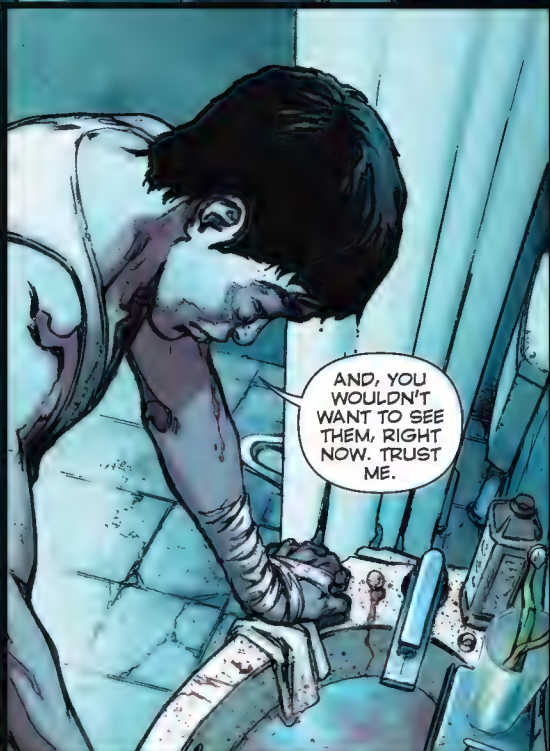
IS THIS
THE PART WHERE
YOU TELL ME I
SHOULD SEE THE
OTHER GUY?



GUYS.
PLURAL.



AND, YOU
WOULDN'T
WANT TO SEE
THEM, RIGHT
NOW. TRUST
ME.



CAREFUL.
DON'T GET
ANY BLOOD
ON ME. THIS
IS THE ONLY
CLEAN
DRESS I
GOT.



ANOTHER
NIGHT OUT,
CASSI?

VERY PERCEPTIVE.
GOOD TO KNOW
YOUR EYES STILL
WORK.

I DON'T LIKE
SEEING YOU
LIKE THIS.

I COULD
SAY THE SAME
THING ABOUT
YOU.





WHAT'S THAT
SUPPOSED TO
MEAN? TRACY
PULLED A LOT OF
STRINGS TO GET
ME A CHANCE AT
THE AGENCY.

AGENCY?
THEY AREN'T
GROOMING
MODELS,
CASSI.



WHAT DO YOU
EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT?
AT LEAST, IT'S A POSSIBLE
WAY OUTTA THIS HELLHOLE.
AND ONE THAT WON'T KILL
ME. UNLIKE YOUR
GAME PLAN.

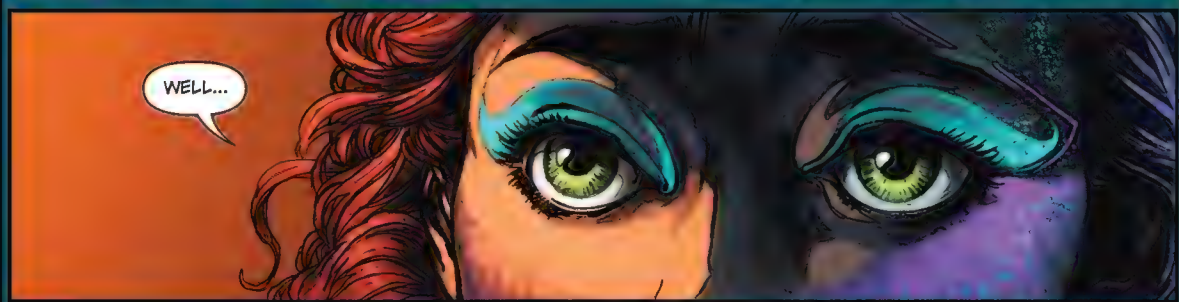


YOU
SURE ABOUT
THAT?

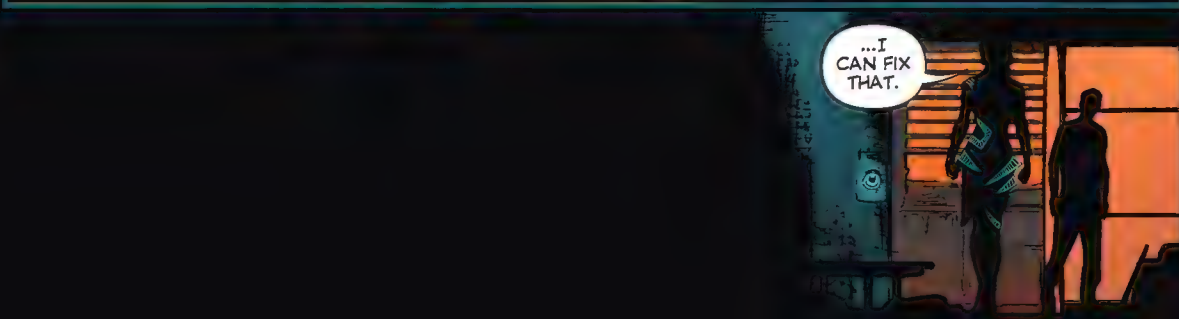
BECAUSE I SEE
IT. EACH TIME YOU
COME HOME AFTER
ANOTHER NIGHT OUT
THERE--ANOTHER NIGHT
ON DISPLAY, UP FOR
SALE. YOU RETURN A
LITTLE MORE DEAD
INSIDE.



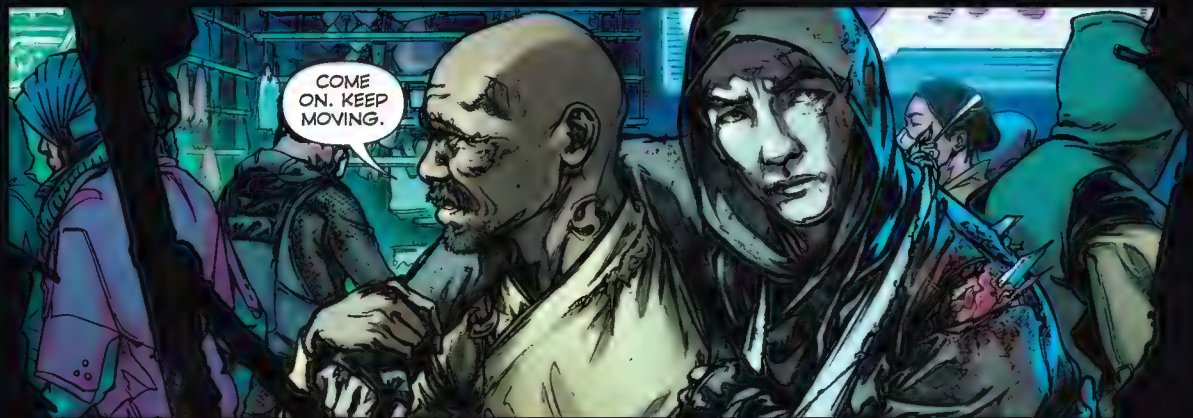
I CAN SEE IT
IN YOUR EYES.



WELL...



...I
CAN FIX
THAT.



COME ON. KEEP MOVING.



WHERE ARE WE GOING?

JUST A LITTLE FARTHER. GOT TO GET US OFF THE STREET AND GET YOU BANDAGED UP. CAN'T GO ON WITH A HUNK OF METAL STICKING OUT OF YOU.



BZZZ
BZZZ

GOOD GOD. HARPER?! MAN, WHAT'S GOING ON? BEEN HEARING ABOUT DRAMA WITH TEAM JAGUAR ALL OVER THE NEWS. YOU MIXED UP IN ALL THAT?



I CAN TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT, BUT RIGHT NOW, I NEED YOUR HELP, YAN.



WHAT HAPPENED?



DAMMIT, YAN. YOU GOING TO LET US IN OR WAIT FOR HIM TO BLEED OUT ON YOUR STOOP?

WAIT. NOT HERE. NOT SAFE. FOR YOU OR ME.



SORRY.
THAT
HURT?

I'VE BEEN
THROUGH
WORSE.

THANKS FOR
TAKING CARE OF
THIS, YAN. DIDN'T
HAVE ANY PLACE
ELSE TO GO.



HEY, I OWE YOU,
HARPER. YOU
KNOW THAT. BUT,
WHAT'S THE
DEAL?

THE NEWS
MAKES IT SOUND
LIKE YOU GUYS ARE
TERRORIZING THE
CITY. ON SOME KIND
OF RAMPAGE.



CAN'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU
HEAR. ZIHAO HAD A CHANGE OF
HEART, AND JASPER APPARENTLY
TAKES IT PERSONAL WHEN
SOMEONE WALKS OUT
ON HIM.

SPEAKING OF
WHICH--BETTER
BURN OFF THAT JAGUAR
TATTOO, YAN. DON'T
NEED TO BE DRAWING
ANYMORE ATTENTION TO
OURSELVES THAN
NECESSARY.



SURE
THING.
AND WHAT
ABOUT THIS
OTHER ONE ON
YOUR CHEST?
WON'T TAKE
BUT A
MINUTE.

LEAVE
IT.



LESS
MARKS THE
BETTER,
ZIHAO.

I CAN'T
ERASE
EVERYTHING
ABOUT
MYSELF.



APPRECIATE
YOU LETTING
US CRASH
HERE, YAN.

NO WORRIES.
WHAT'S A COUPLE
MORE BODIES
AROUND
HERE.

WHO ARE
ALL THESE
PEOPLE?

FAMILY. CAN'T
TURN AWAY BLOOD
RELATIVES, YOU KNOW.
ONCE THEY FOUND OUT
I HAD ALL THIS ROOM,
THEY JUST STARTED
FLOCKING HERE LIKE
I'M A DAMN HOTEL.



THIS WAY.
I THINK I CAN
SQUEEZE YOU
INTO ONE OF
THE SMALLER
PARTITIONS.
NO BED. BUT
PLENTY OF
FLOOR.

WE'RE
NOT PICKY.



WHAT'S
GOING ON
IN THERE?

MY SISTER'S
ROOM. BETTER
INTRODUCE YOU.
SHE'S KIND OF GOT
A QUEEN BEE
SYNDROME.

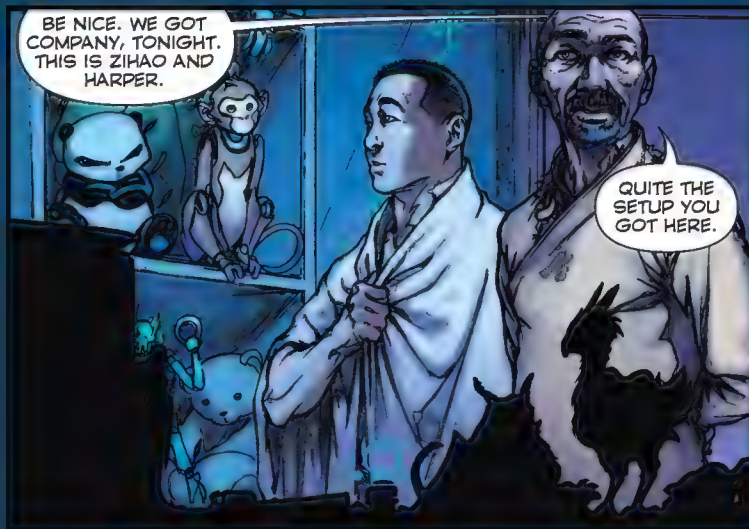


SIS, YOU
DECENT?



HEY,
JUN.

WHAT HAVE I
ALWAYS TOLD
YOU, YANP? EVEN
WHEN MY DOOR
IS OPEN, IT'S
CLOSED.



BE NICE. WE GOT COMPANY, TONIGHT. THIS IS ZHAO AND HARPER.

QUITE THE SETUP YOU GOT HERE.



I APOLOGIZE FOR HER ATTITUDE. SHE DOESN'T GET OUT MUCH. LIKE, AT ALL.



WHY GO OUT, WHEN I CAN BRING THE WORLD TO ME?

CAREFUL. HE'S SENSITIVE.



HEEEEEEY, BROTHER. WHY YOU ALL UP IN MY FACE?

S-SORRY. MY BAD.



TOLD YA.

SO, ARE YOU LIKE A HACKER OR SOMETHING?

WHAT'S IT TO YOU?



MAYBE, YOU CAN HELP ME FIND SOMEONE.



BZZZ
BZZZ

ZIHAOP

HEY,
CASSI...

TO BE CONTINUED...

J.T. KRUL Dinna WU Yuyan SONG Alex KONAT Mark ROSLAN John STARR Sal CIPRIANO



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CHAPTER FOUR

“Changes”

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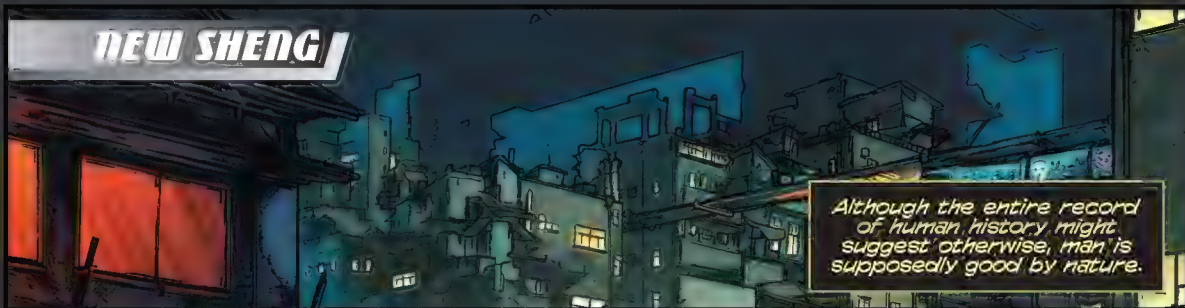
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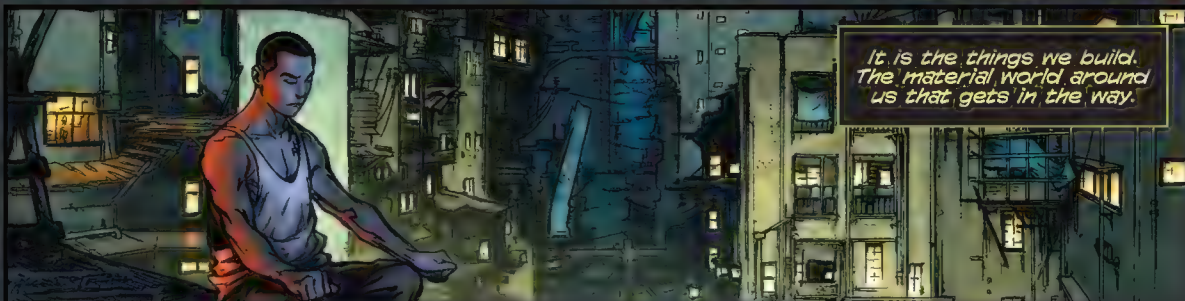
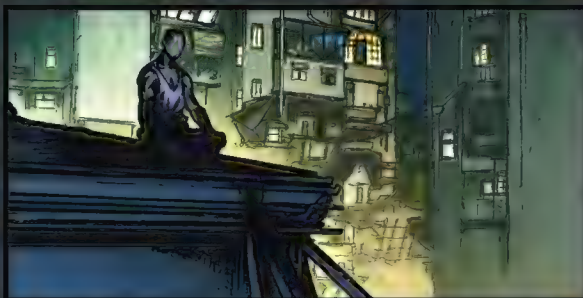
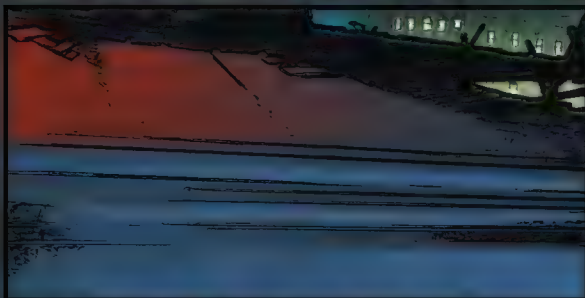
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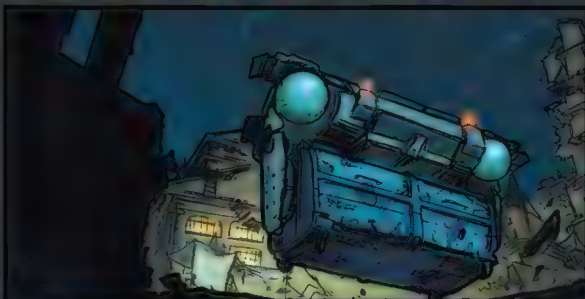
NEW SHENG



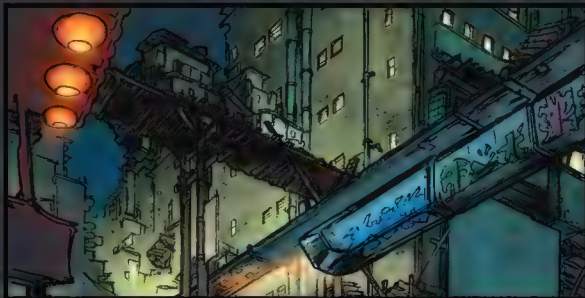
Although the entire record of human history might suggest otherwise, man is supposedly good by nature.



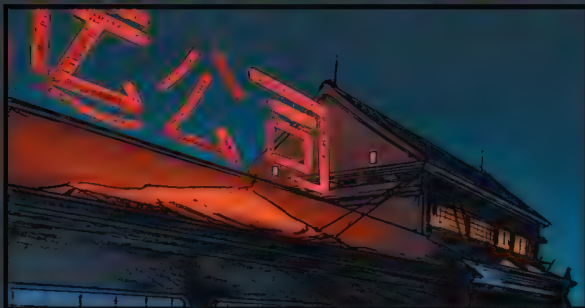
It is the things we build. The material world around us that gets in the way.



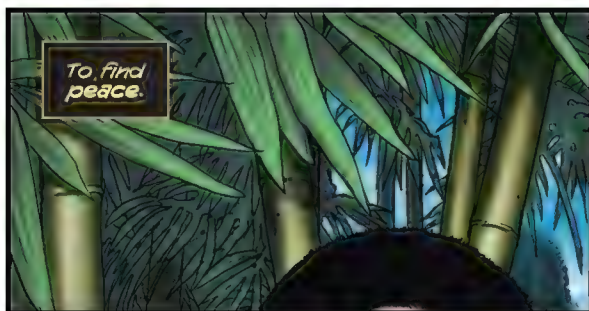
Hanging over us like a filthy cloud that chokes our spirit.



We need to fight through it. To purify ourselves.



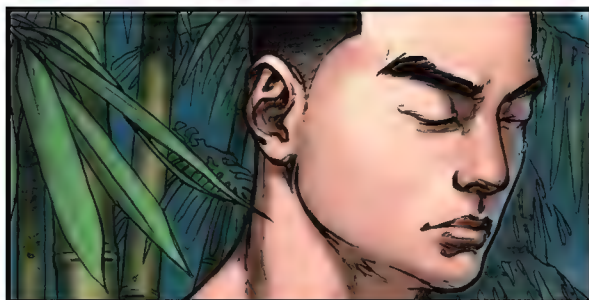
To get back to where we belong.



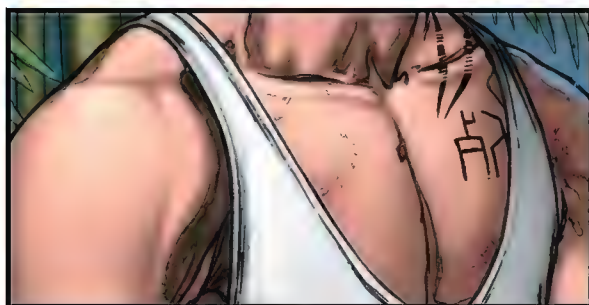
*To find
peace.*



*It is not a matter
of ignoring the
external world, for
that is impossible.*



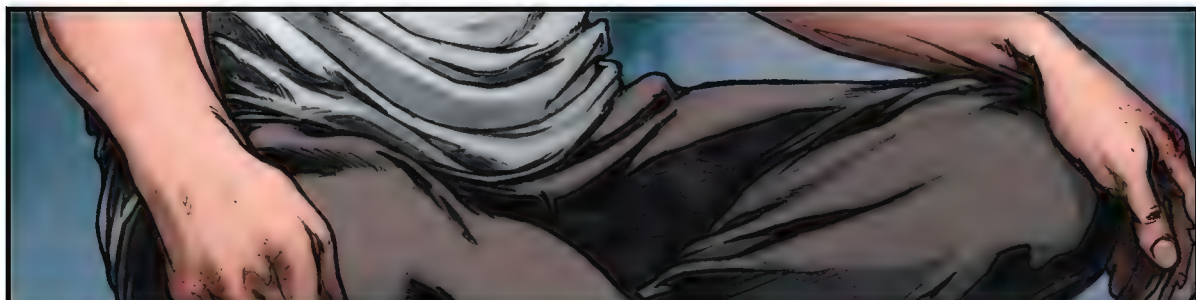
*But, it does mean
focusing on one's
inner nature.*



*Letting it shine
brighter.*



*A source
of energy.*



*And, if possible, a
beacon for others.*

EARLIER.

HEY,
CASSI.

ZIHAO,
HOW DID
YOU FIND
ME?

ALL I
HAD TO DO WAS
LOOK UP. MUST BE A
HELL OF A VIEW FROM
WHERE YOU ARE, IN
LEI'S TOWER.

HE DEFINITELY
LIKES TO BE ON TOP.
IT COULD BE WORSE.
I THINK WE BOTH
KNOW THAT.

I WONDERED
IF YOU SAW ME
THE OTHER
NIGHT.

NO, YOU
DIDN'T. YOU
KNEW.

YEAH,
I DID.

BEEN SEEING YOU
A LOT LATELY. SPLASHED
ACROSS THE NEWS. WHAT'S
THE MATTER? GOT TIRED OF
FIGHTING ONE GUY AT A TIME?
WANTED TO REALLY SET
YOURSELF UP FOR A BEATING?

IS THAT
WHAT YOU
THINK THIS
IS?

I DON'T KNOW. YOU
ALWAYS DID LOVE
RAMMING YOUR
HEAD AGAINST THE
WORLD. DETERMINED
TO SEE WHICH ONE
BROKE FIRST. AS IF
THERE WAS ANY
QUESTION.

AND, LIKE
ALWAYS, YOU
WANT ME TO
WATCH.

I'M SORRY,
CASSI. IT'S MY
FAULT. ALL OF IT.
ME BEING HERE.
YOU BEING
THERE.

I NEVER
SHOULD
HAVE LEFT
YOU.

WE LEFT
EACH OTHER, ZIHAO.
NO TURNING BACK
NOW.

SAYS
WHO?

THIS ISN'T A
CONVERSATION
I CAN HAVE.

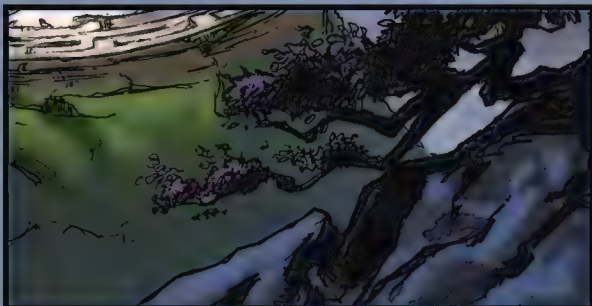
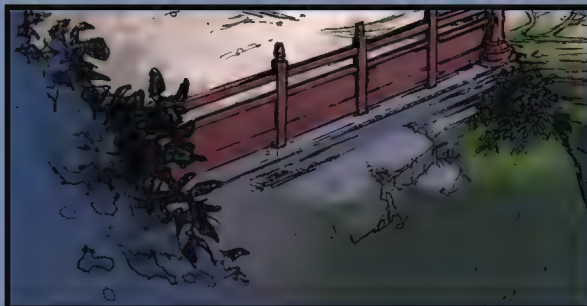
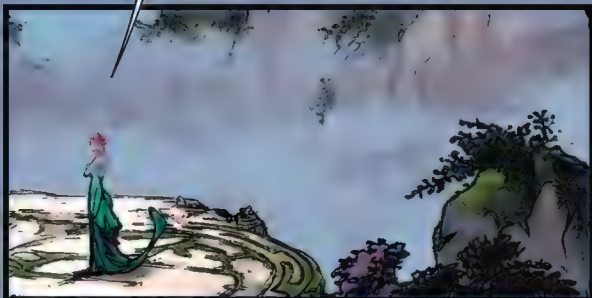
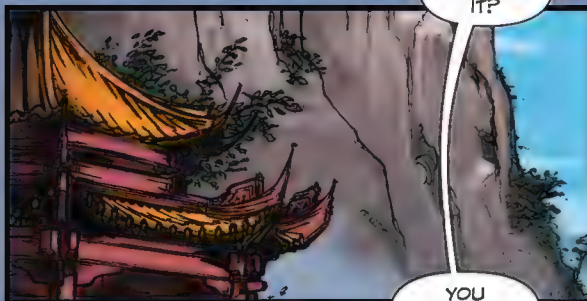
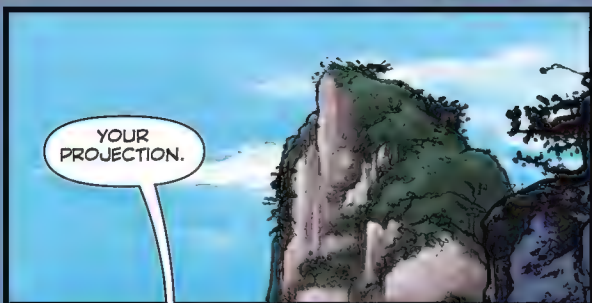
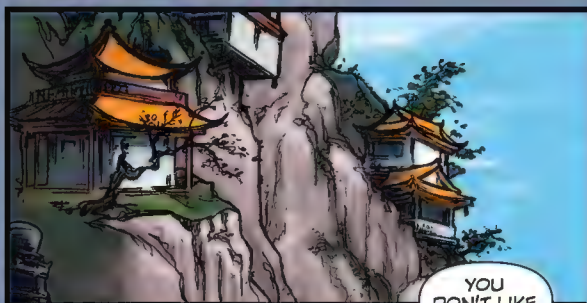
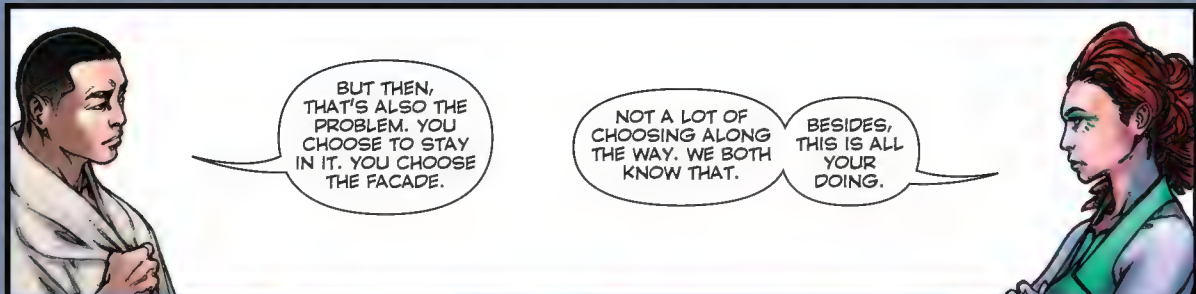
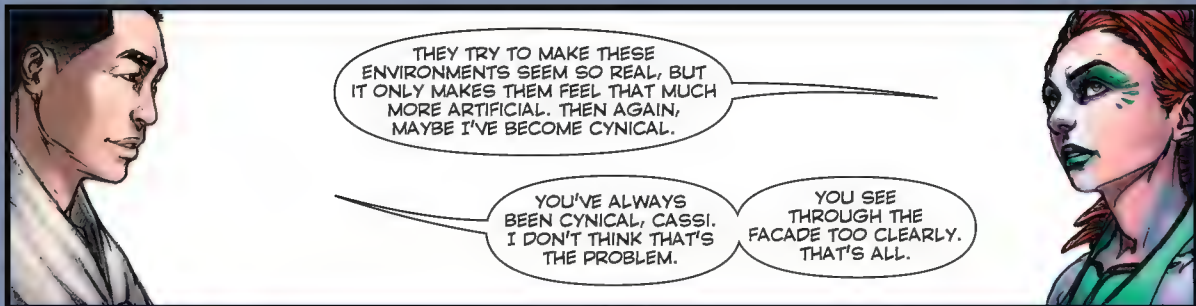
NO, PROBABLY
NOT. NOT HERE, ANYWAY.
BUT, SOMEWHERE
PERHAPS.

YOU WERE INVITED TO A

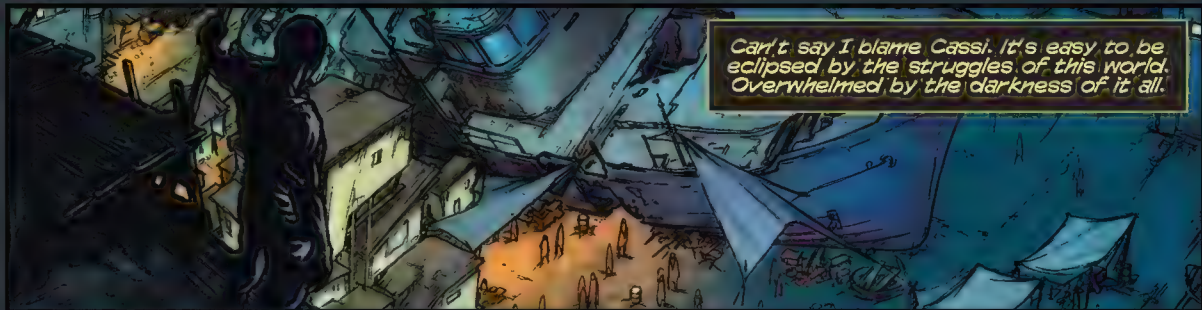
VIRTLINK

IT IS UNSAFE TO ACCEPT
LINKS FROM UNREGISTERED OR UNKNOWN
CALLERS

SOMEWHERE
SAFE.







Can't say I blame Cassi. It's easy to be eclipsed by the struggles of this world. Overwhelmed by the darkness of it all.



But, there's always a little light. A glimmer of something.

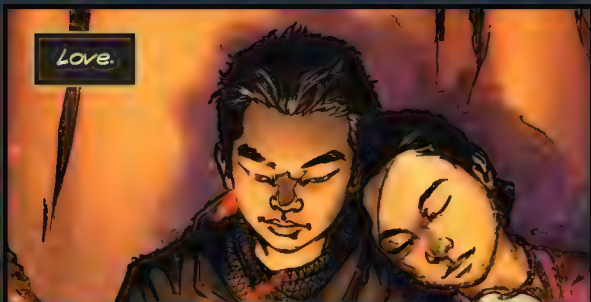
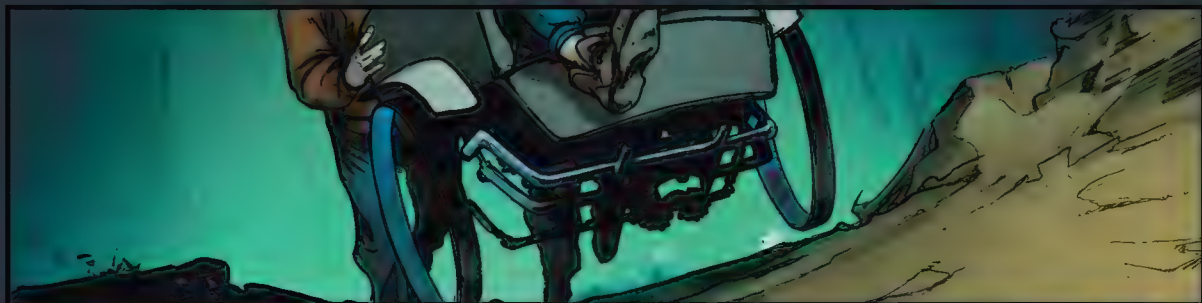
Humanity, if not hope.



Life.



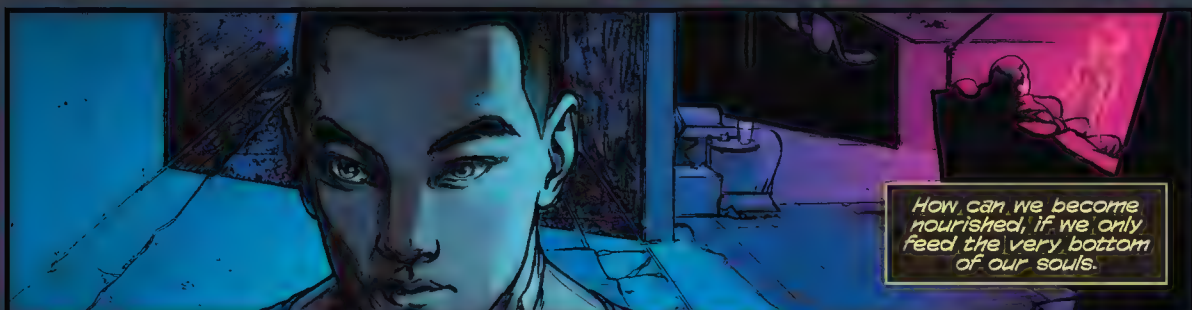
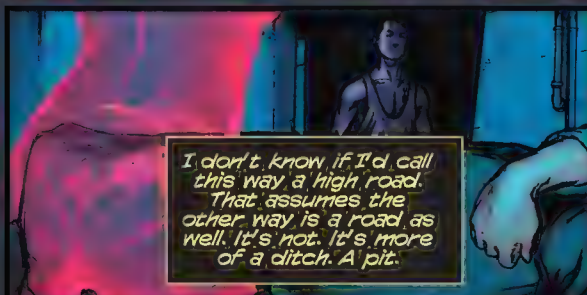
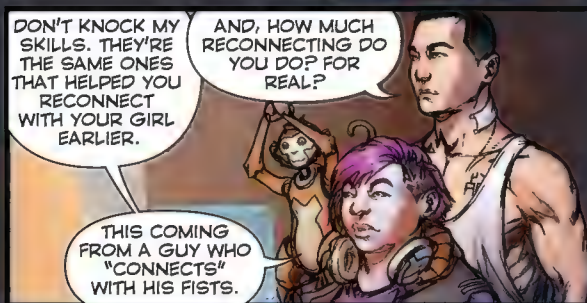
Laughter.



Love.



Something to shine. Something to persevere. Something to cling to that keeps our own fire burning.





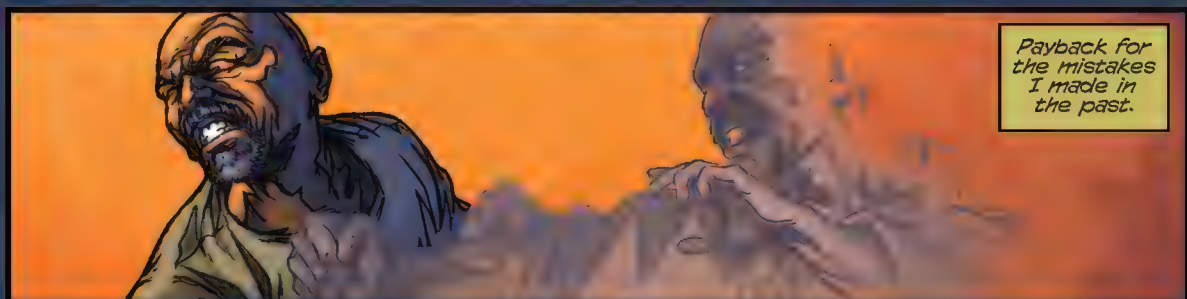
Shadow boxing has always been a preferred training technique.



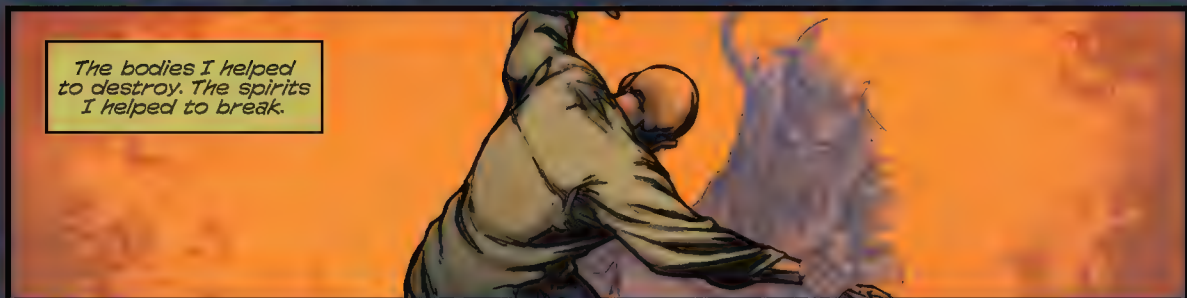
After all, what better opponent to face than yourself.



But, I'm not really fighting the man I am today. I'm fighting the man I was.



Payback for the mistakes I made in the past.



The bodies I helped to destroy. The spirits I helped to break.



The blood on my hands.

Zihao thinks I did what I did to save him, but I can't lie to myself.



I did it because of the one I couldn't save.

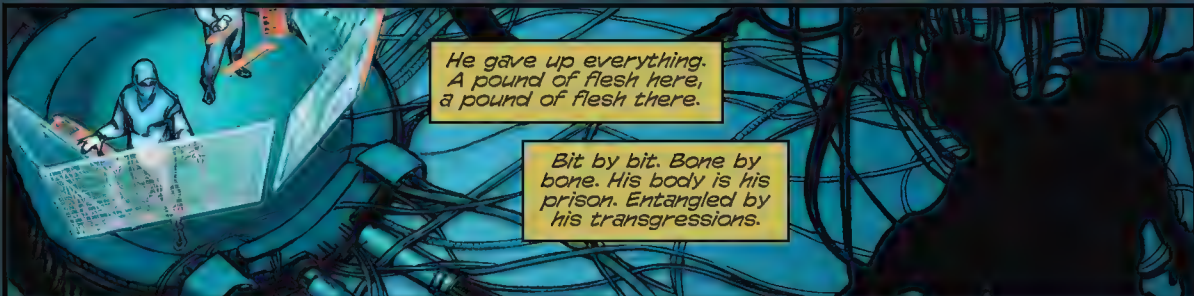


Thunder.
That's the
name they
gave him.



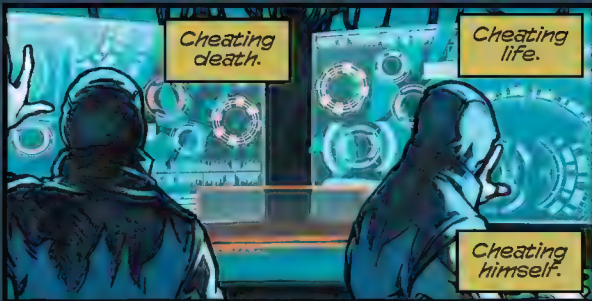
What was it
before? Does
anybody
remember?

Does he
remember?



He gave up everything.
A pound of flesh here,
a pound of flesh there.

Bit by bit. Bone by
bone. His body is his
prison. Entangled by
his transgressions.



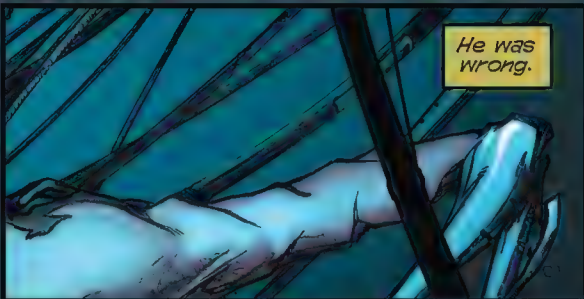
Cheating
death.

Cheating
life.

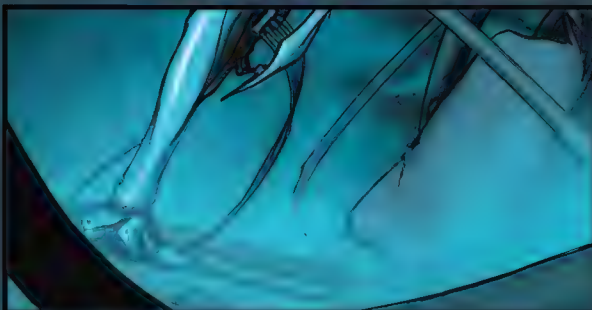
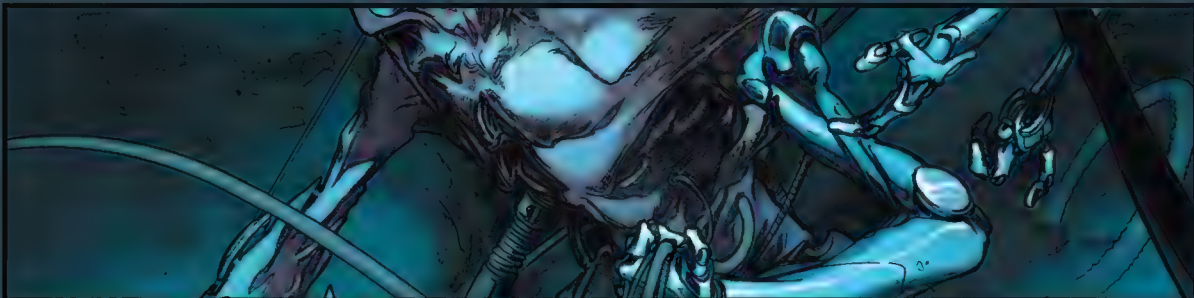
Cheating
himself.



Like many
times before,
he may have
thought his
battle was
over.



He was
wrong.



This world is not
done with him, yet.

A close-up of Ajax, a man with a cybernetic eye and a gun in his mouth.

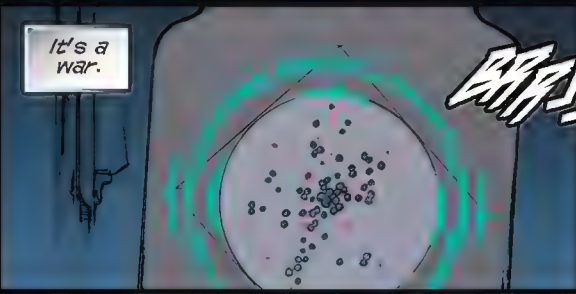
I first stepped into the arena when I was sixteen. Didn't fight because I wanted to. Fought because I had to.

A bright yellow and orange explosion.

Lasted thirty years--not because I was stronger or faster or smarter.

But because I didn't make the mistake that most guys make.

I never thought of this all as a fight.

A circular field of green and blue energy with small particles inside.

It's a war.

BRASHING

A close-up of Ajax's face, looking serious.

NICE SHOOTING, AJAX. VERY... PRECISE.

A close-up of Qiang's arm, showing a large mechanical claw.

NO NEED FOR THE SCALPEL WHEN THE SLEDGEHAMMER WILL DO, QIANG. YOU KNOW, YOU COULD HAVE HOOKED YOURSELF WITH SOMETHING MORE EFFECTIVE. NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK IN THE GAME.

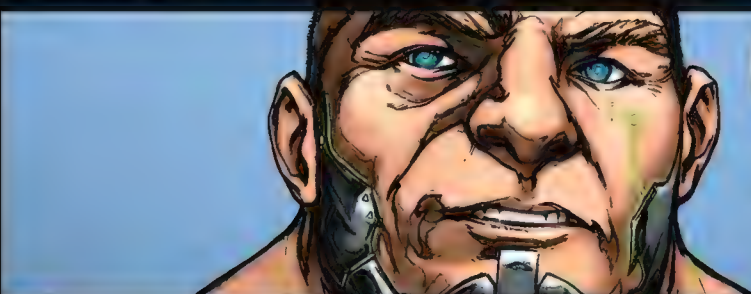
A close-up of Ajax's face, looking slightly annoyed.

HARDLY.

A close-up of Qiang's arm, showing the mechanical claw.

OH, COME ON--- YOU ARE LOVING THIS. RETURNING TO THE SPOTLIGHT.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

A close-up of Qiang's face, looking smug.

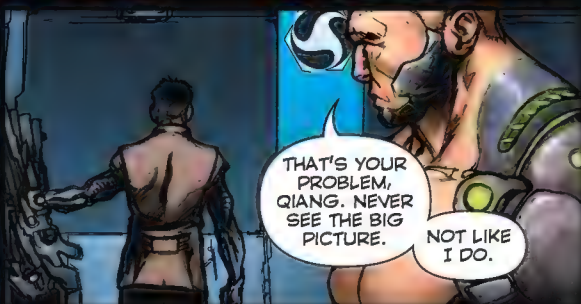
DON'T PLAY STUPID. YOU'VE BEEN BLOWING UP ALL OVER THE PLACE. MENTIONS ARE UP LIKE A THOUSAND PERCENT. TRENDING ON FIGHTRITE AND BRAWLRRR. YOUR NAME AND FACE ARE PLASTERED OVER EVERY SITE ON THE NET.

BET YOUR MERCHANDISE IS GOING THROUGH THE ROOF. YOU SHOULD HAVE JASPER GET PR TO SET UP A SIGNING FOR YOU. CASH IN, BRO.

A close-up of Qiang's face, looking smug.

I NEVER CARED ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT. THEY'RE JUST DIVERSIONS.

YEAH--- LUCRATIVE ONES.

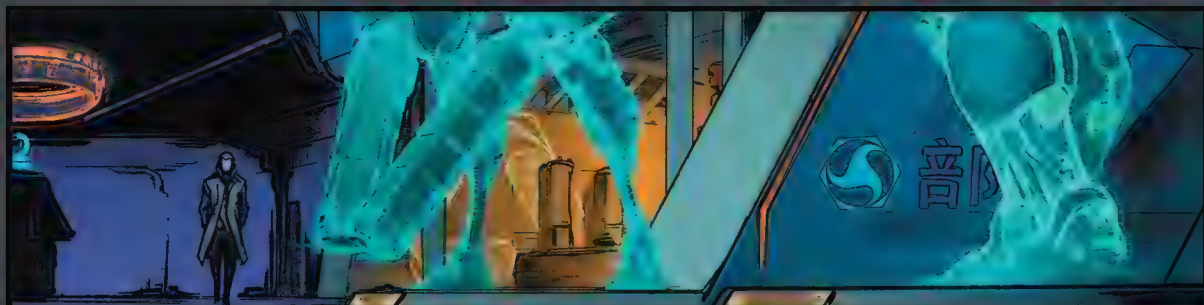
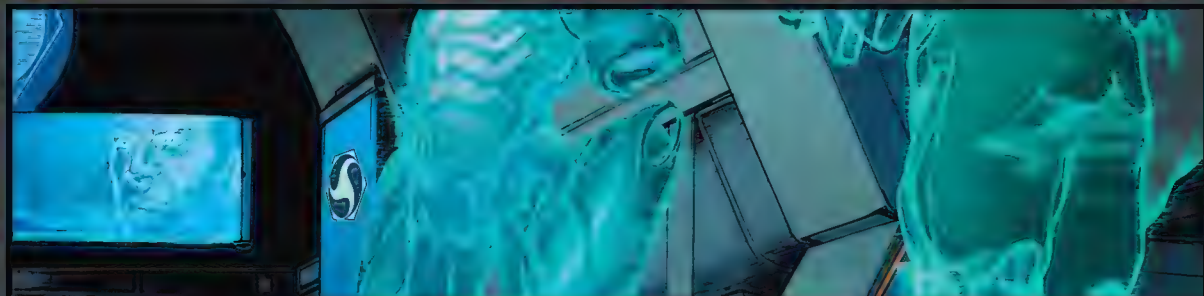
A close-up of Qiang's arm, showing the mechanical claw.

THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, QIANG. NEVER SEE THE BIG PICTURE.

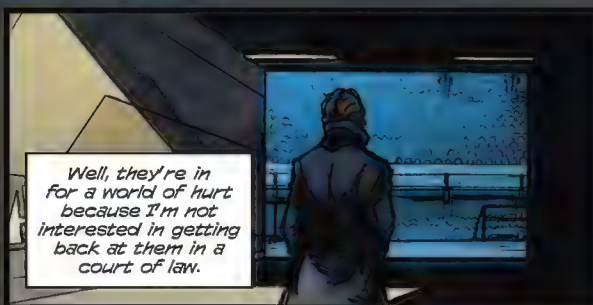
NOT LIKE I DO.

Zihao and Harper think they can just walk out on me. Think they can ignore their contracts. Live off my dime for years, then up and abandon me.

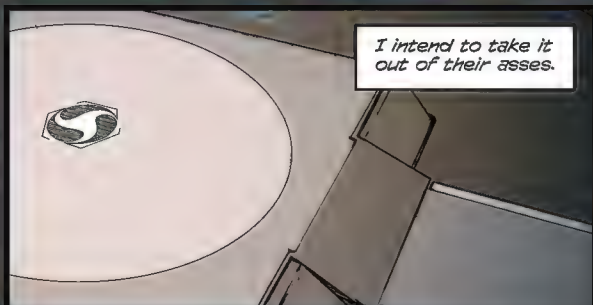
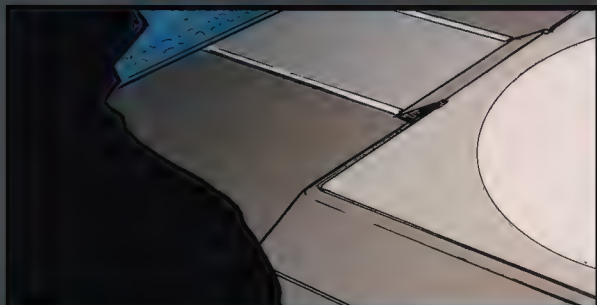
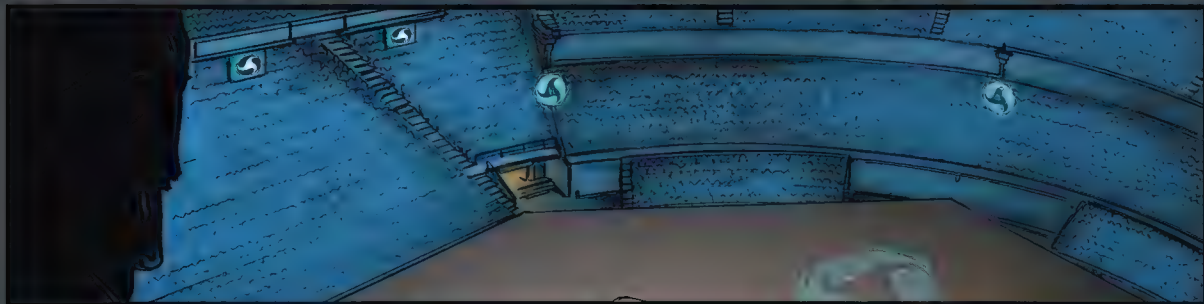
Team Jaguar don't play that way.



I didn't build all this by letting some scroungers walk all over me. Dismiss me. Embarrass me.



Well, they're in for a world of hurt because I'm not interested in getting back at them in a court of law.



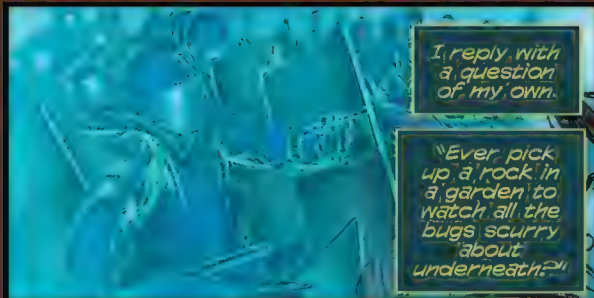
I intend to take it out of their asses.



People
used to
tell me the
news is too
depressing.



Ask me how can
you work in it?



I reply with
a question
of my own.

"Ever pick
up a rock in
a garden to
watch all the
bugs scurry
about
underneath?"



Same
concept.

The chaos
of life is
intoxicating.



There's no reason
to fear shedding
light on the world
as it really exists.

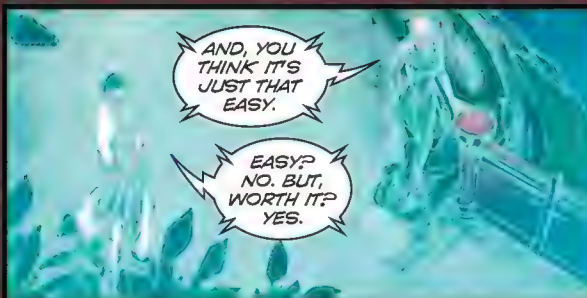
As long as
you are
honest with
yourself.



Have to face
the truth.



...WE JUST
PICKED A BAD
DESTINATION. TIME
TO PICK
ANOTHER.

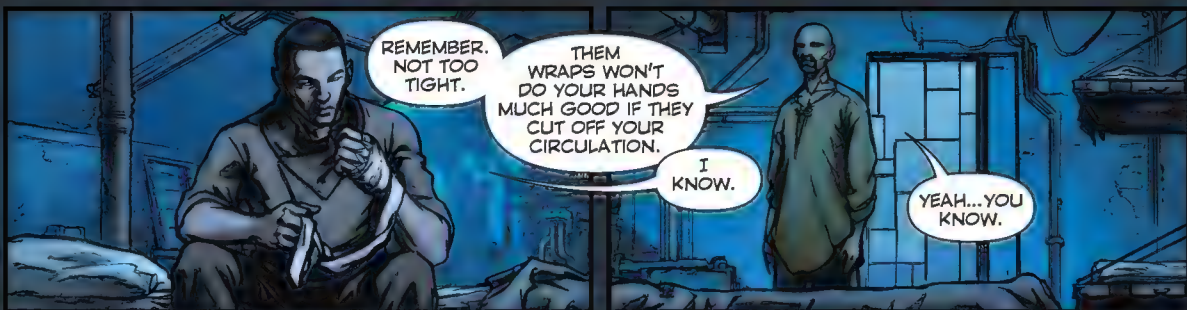


AND, YOU
THINK IT'S
JUST THAT
EASY.

EASY?
NO. BUT,
WORTH IT?
YES.



Even when
it hurts.



REMEMBER.
NOT TOO
TIGHT.

THEM
WRAPS WON'T
DO YOUR HANDS
MUCH GOOD IF THEY
CUT OFF YOUR
CIRCULATION.

I
KNOW.

YEAH...YOU
KNOW.



DON'T
SUPPOSE THIS
IS YOU GETTING
READY FOR A LATE
NIGHT TRAINING
SESSION,
IS IT?

THINKING
IT'S GOT
SOMETHING TO
DO WITH THAT
CALL YOU
MADE.



CASSI WAS THE ONLY PERSON IN MY
LIFE THAT MEANT SOMETHING TO ME.
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER BEHIND.
I CAN'T NOT TRY,
HARPER.

YOU DID TRY.
YOU REACHED OUT.
SHE MADE HER
CHOICE.

I NEED TO LOOK HER
IN THE EYES. HER REAL EYES.
SHE NEEDS TO KNOW I'M THERE
FOR HER. THAT I CAN HELP HER.



BUT, DOES
IT HAVE TO BE
TONIGHT? WITH ALL
THE HEAT WE GOT
ON US?

YOU'RE RESTLESS,
ZHAO. I GET THAT.
BUT, IT'S KEEPING YOU
FROM THINKING
THINGS THROUGH.



I KNOW WHAT
I'M DOING.

YES, YOU
DO.

AND,
YOU KNOW IT'S
DANGEROUS.

THIS ISN'T A
FIGHT I CAN WALK
AWAY FROM.

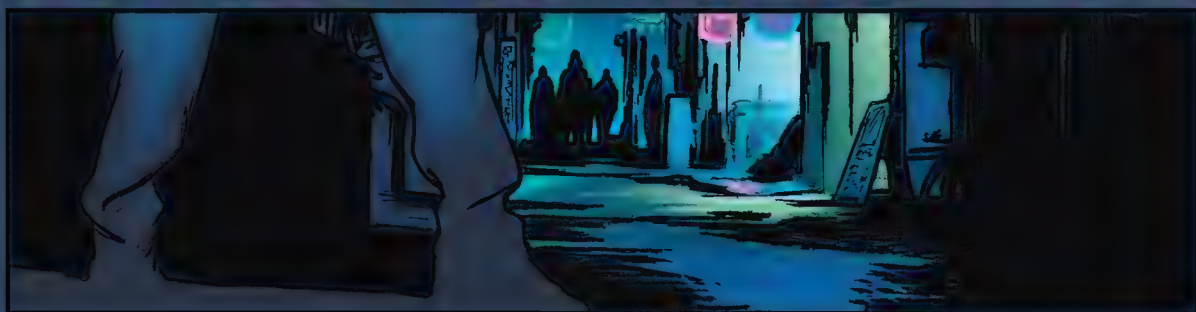
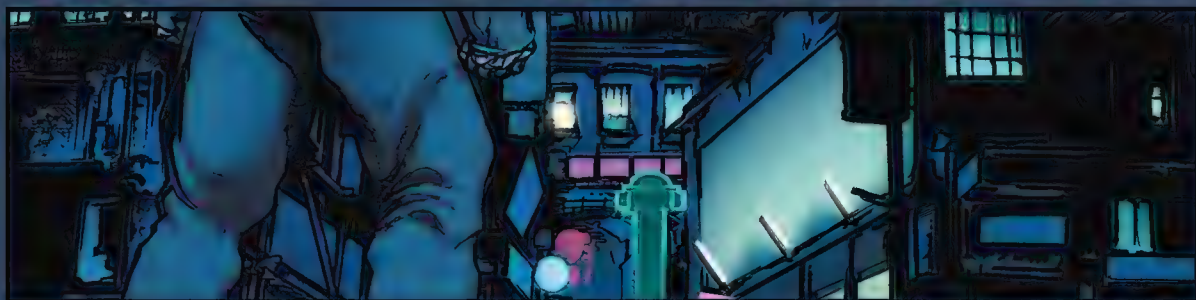
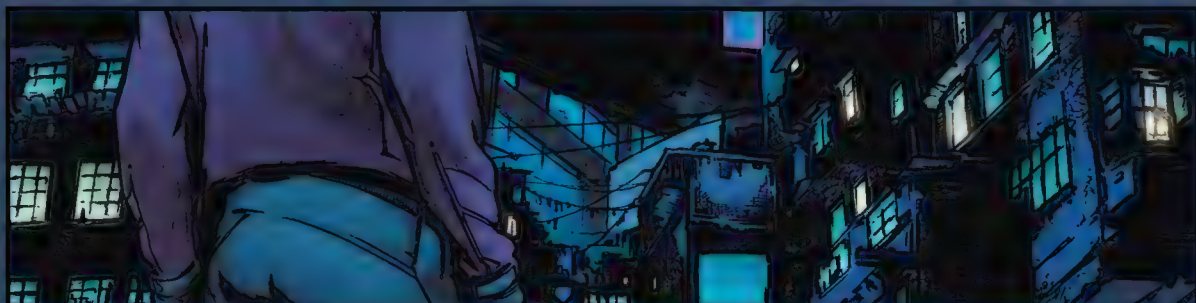
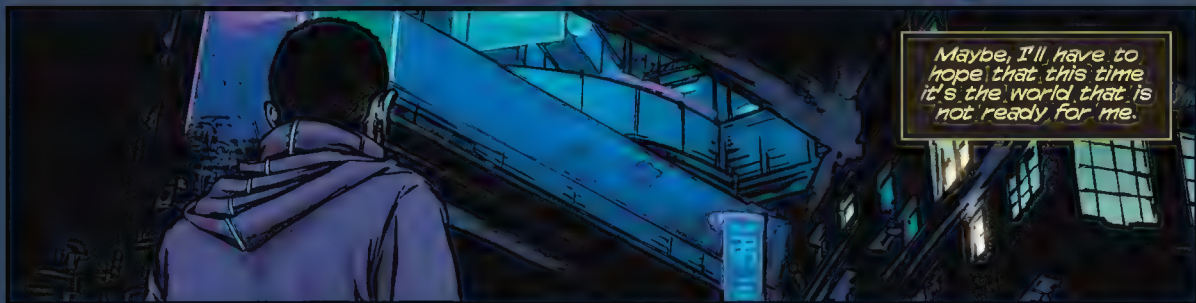
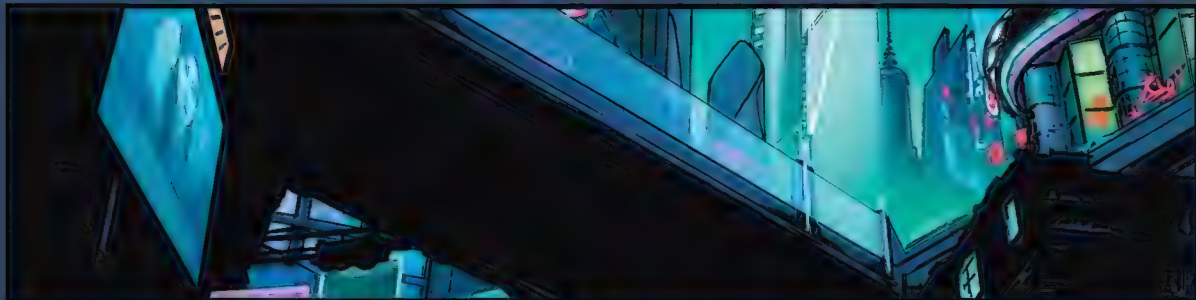


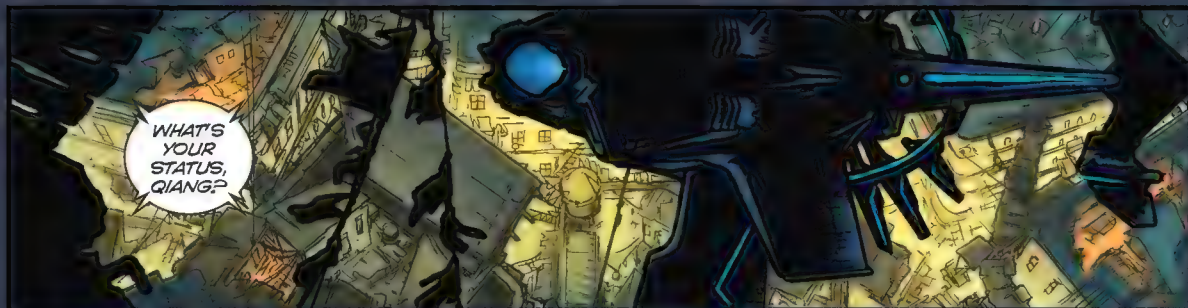
I'M NOT
ASKING
YOU TO.

TO
RETREAT
DOESN'T
ALWAYS
MEAN TO
ACCEPT
DEFEAT.

YOU CAN BE
BRAVE ENOUGH TO
FIGHT, BUT SMART
ENOUGH TO WAIT
UNTIL THE TIME
IS RIGHT.

YOU
ALWAYS SAID
THE WORLD
DOESN'T CARE
IF WE ARE
READY OR
NOT.



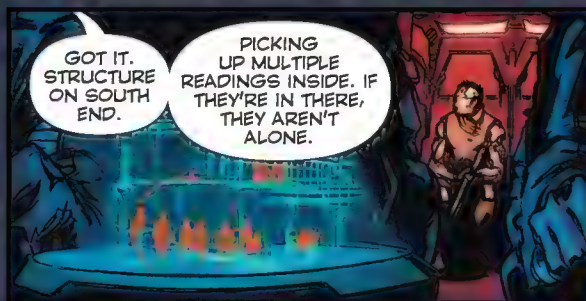


WHAT'S
YOUR
STATUS,
QIANG?



APPROACHING FIFTH DISTRICT, NOW.
THAT'S WHERE THE SIGNAL ORIGINATED
FROM ACCORDING TO THE INTEL YOU
PROVIDED. DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD
SUCH RESOURCES, JASPER.

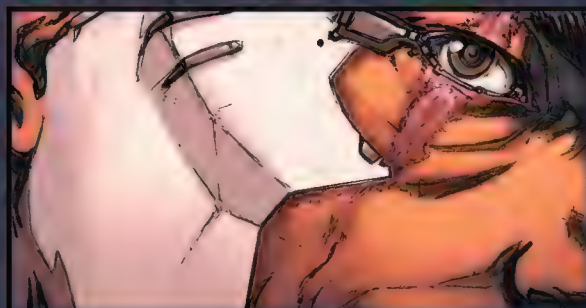
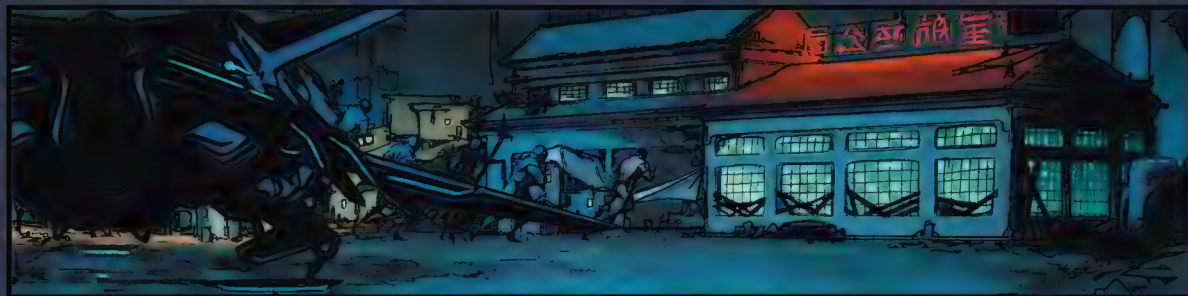
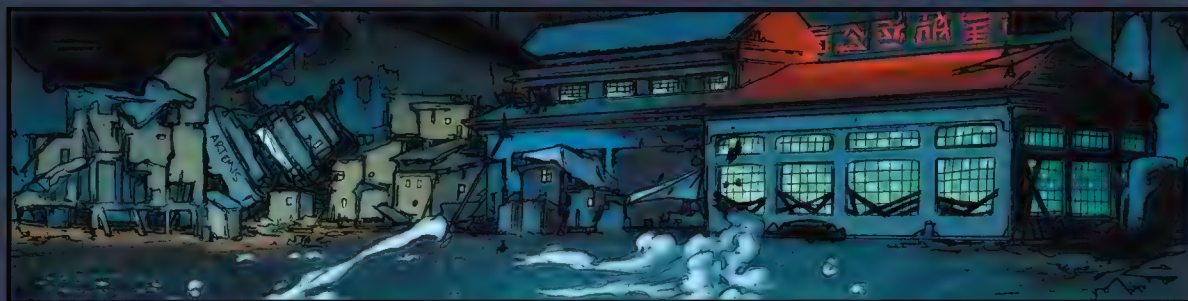
IT DIDN'T
COME CHEAP.
EVERYTHING HAS A
PRICE, BUT IT WILL
BE WORTH IT TO
NAIL THESE
TWO.



GOT IT.
STRUCTURE
ON SOUTH
END.

PICKING
UP MULTIPLE
READINGS INSIDE. IF
THEY'RE IN THERE,
THEY AREN'T
ALONE.

THAT CAN'T
BE HELPED
NOW. TAKE
US DOWN,
QUIETLY.



SECURE THE
PERIMETER.
PREPARE FOR
ENTRY.



YOU ALMOST FINISHED?

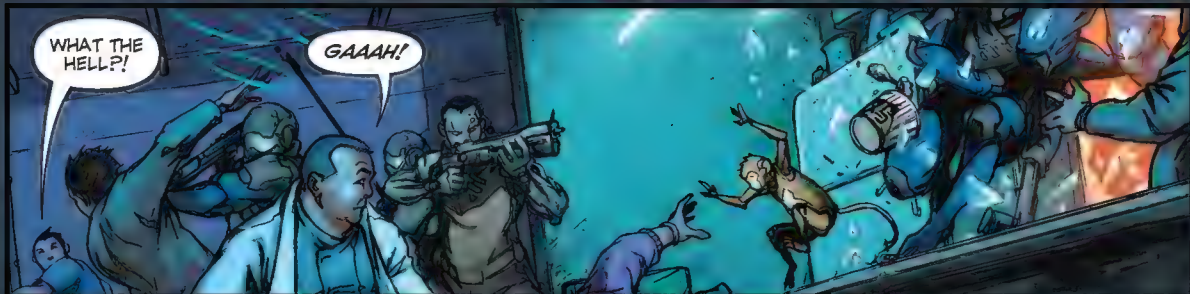
DOES IT LOOK LIKE IT?

RELAX, WE'LL GET BACK TO THE GAME SOON ENOUGH. MAN, YOU MUST REALLY LOVE LOSING. DID I PROGRAM YOU THAT WAY? OR IS IT SOME INTERNAL PROTOCOL?

MAYBE, THAT'S WHY I LET YOU WIN. PROGRAMMED TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.



UM, JUN... I HEAR...



WHAT THE HELL?!

GAAAH!



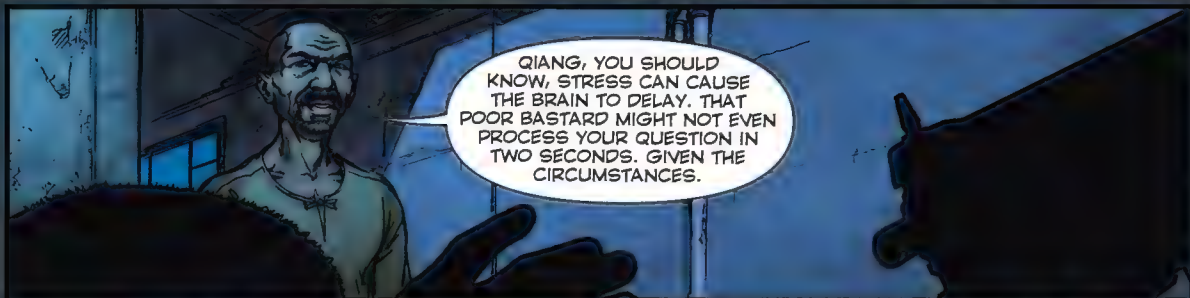
RUN!



WHERE ARE THEY?

WH-- WHAT?! WHO?!

YOUR NEW HOUSEGUESTS? YOU GOT TWO SECONDS.



QIANG, YOU SHOULD KNOW, STRESS CAN CAUSE THE BRAIN TO DELAY. THAT POOR BASTARD MIGHT NOT EVEN PROCESS YOUR QUESTION IN TWO SECONDS. GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

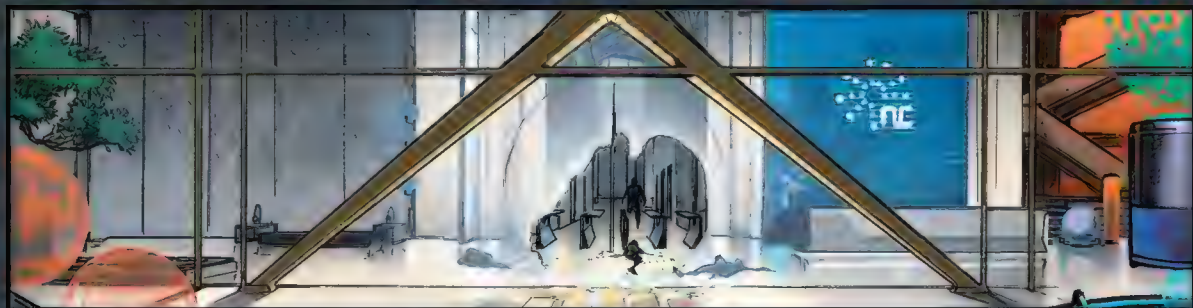
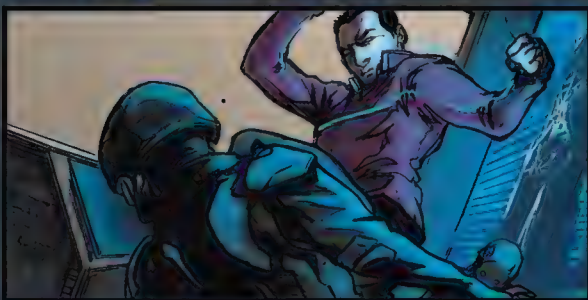
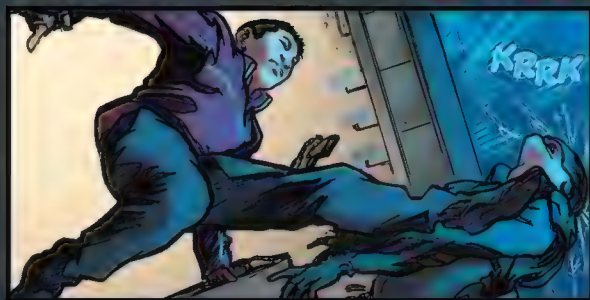
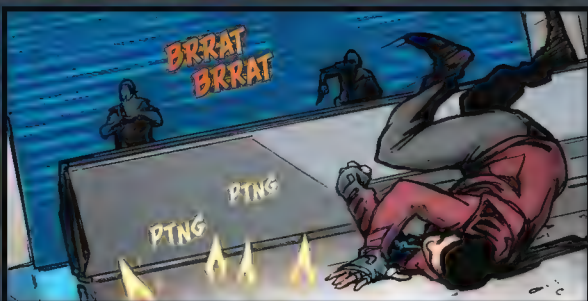
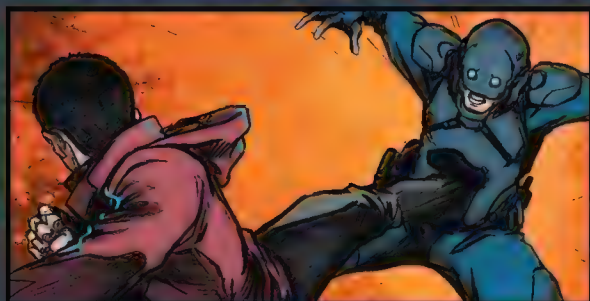
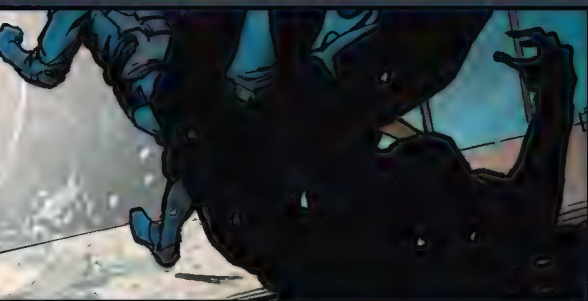
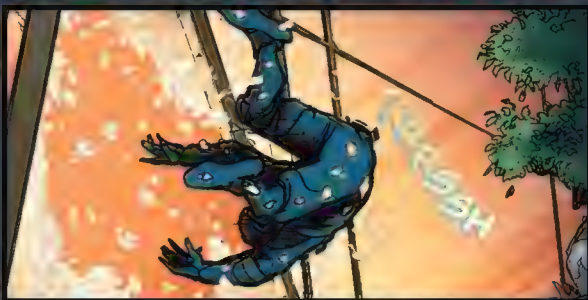
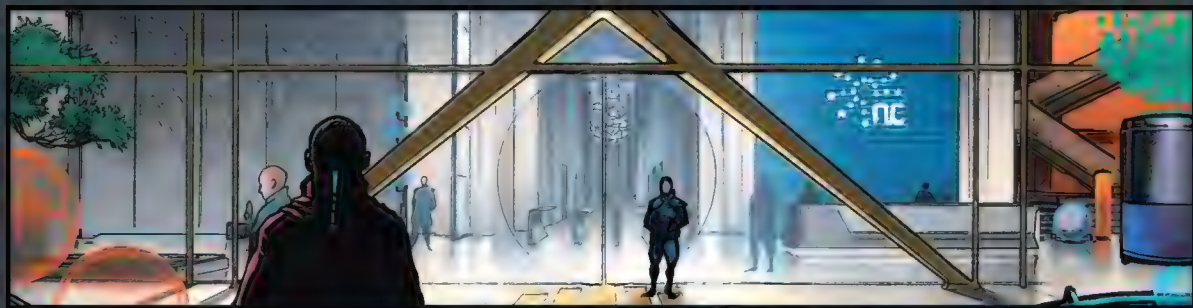


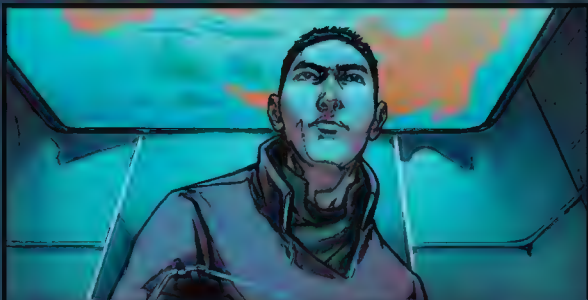
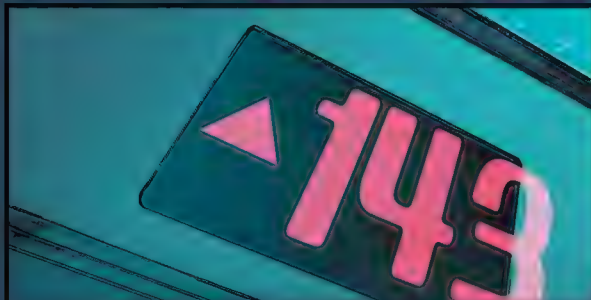
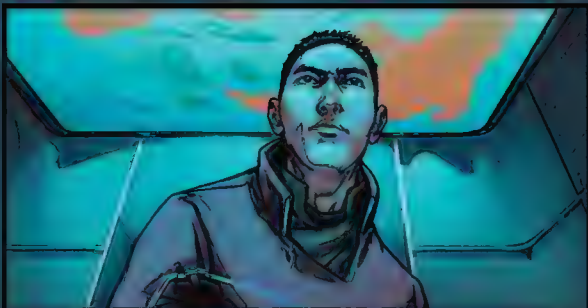
I'M HERE, BUT YOU WON'T GET ZIHAO.

YOU'RE TOO LATE. HE'S GONE.

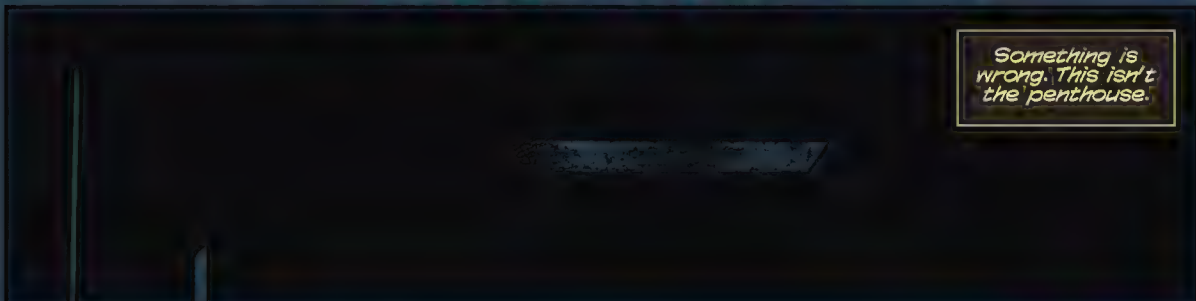


GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN.





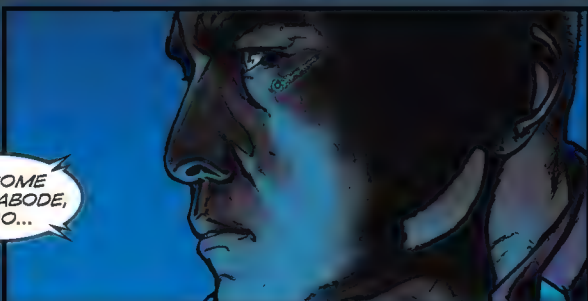
DING



Something is wrong. This isn't the penthouse.

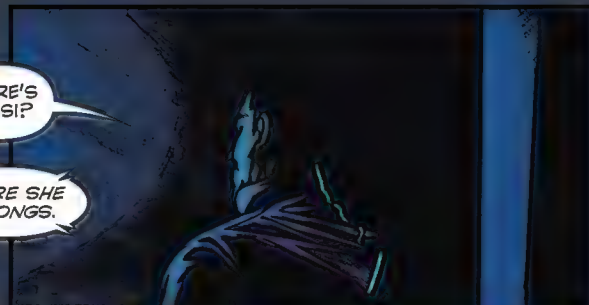


WELCOME TO MY ABODE, ZIHAO...





NOT
TECHNICALLY THE
ABODE YOU WERE
LOOKING FOR I AM
SURE, BUT HEY I
OWN THE WHOLE
PLACE.



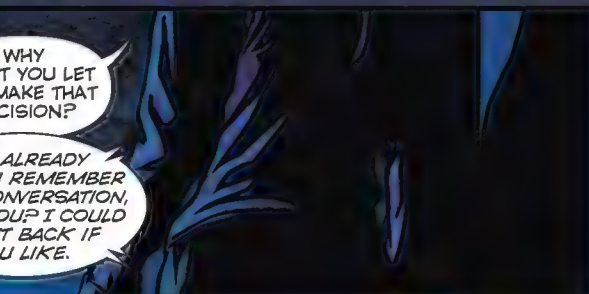
WHERE'S
CASSI?

WHERE SHE
BELONGS.



WHY
DON'T YOU LET
HER MAKE THAT
DECISION?

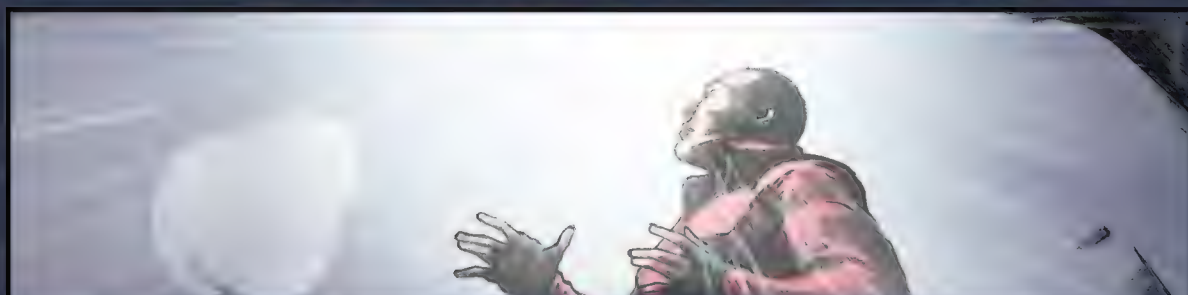
SHE ALREADY
DID. YOU REMEMBER
YOUR CONVERSATION,
DON'T YOU? I COULD
PLAY IT BACK IF
YOU LIKE.



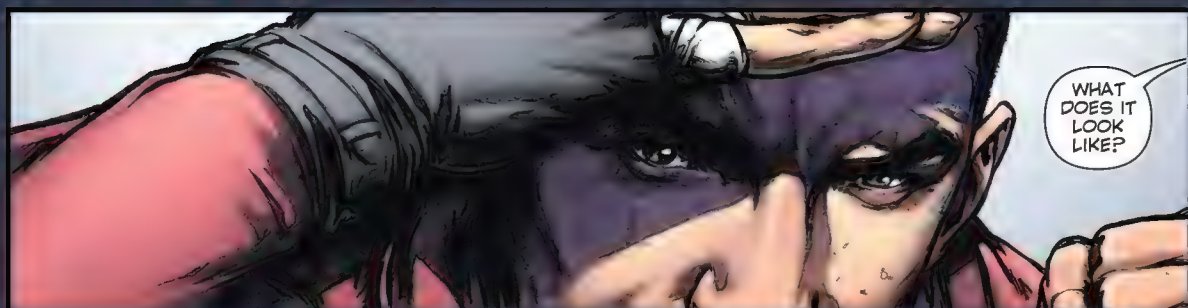
SO,
WHAT
HAPPENS
NOW?



NOW, WE
GET DOWN TO
BUSINESS. MY
BUSINESS.



WHAT IS
THIS?



WHAT
DOES IT
LOOK
LIKE?



In that moment,
I am shocked.

Not by Ajax,
but by fate.

By the realization that
this was always one fight
I could never escape.

TO BE CONCLUDED...

KRUL | Editor: WU | Writer: SONG | Artist: KUNAT | Color: ROSLAN | Letter: STARR | Layout: CIPRIANO



Vol. 1



NINJAY

北胜路

#5

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NU WAY

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CHAPTER FIVE

“Showdown”

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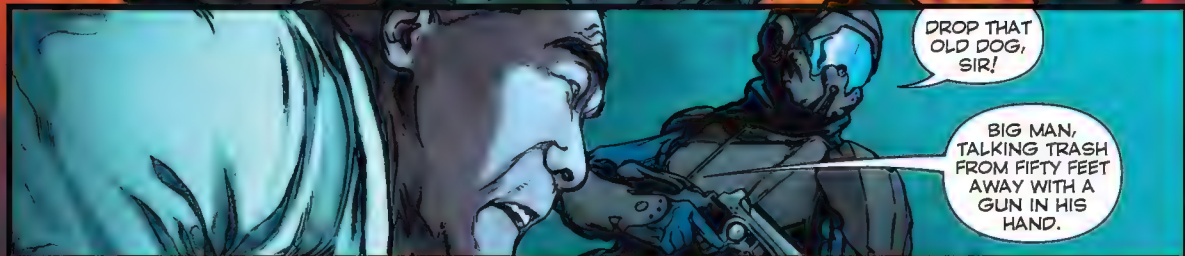
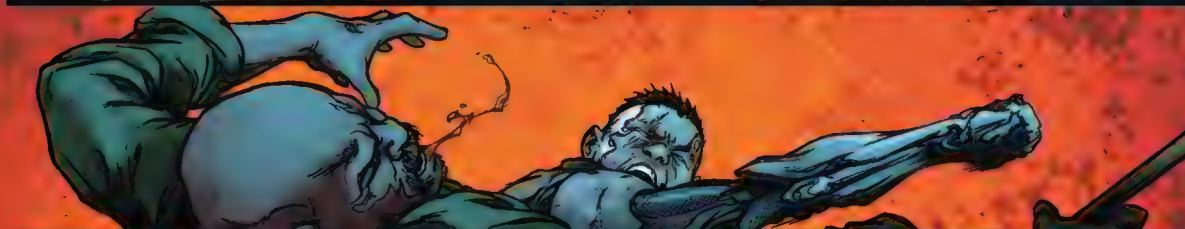
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BANZAI!!

gahhh!



BAM!

BAM!



HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND, GIRL? YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU DID? THE WORLD OF HURT YOU BROUGHT YOURSELF?

EASY, JUN.





PROBABLY
NOT.

YAN?

YOU ALWAYS
USED TO GIVE ME CRAP
FOR NOT DOING ANYTHING.
FOR SPENDING ALL MY
TIME LOCKED AWAY
IN MY ROOM.

WELL,
LOOK AT ME
NOW. I DID
SOMETHING.

I F***ING DID
SOMETHING.

NOW
WHAT?

NOW
WHAT?!

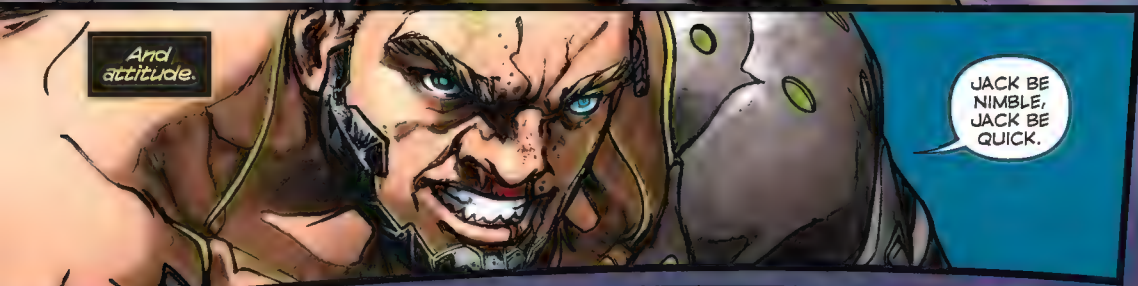
LET'S TOWER



*In the arena,
there's none
bigger than
Ajax.*

*In
size.*

Strength.



*And
attitude.*

JACK BE
NIMBLE,
JACK BE
QUICK.

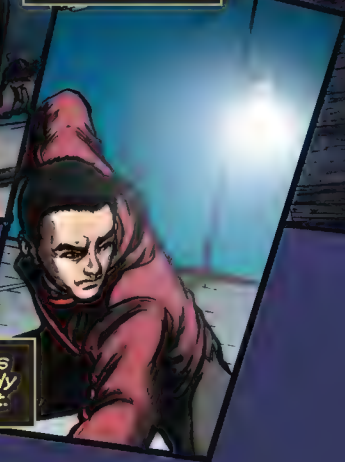


CAN JACK
JUMP OVER THIS
CANDLESTICK?

*I didn't
come here
looking for a
fight. Especially
not with him.*

*I'm here
for Cassi.*

*And from the looks
of things, everybody
already knows that.*





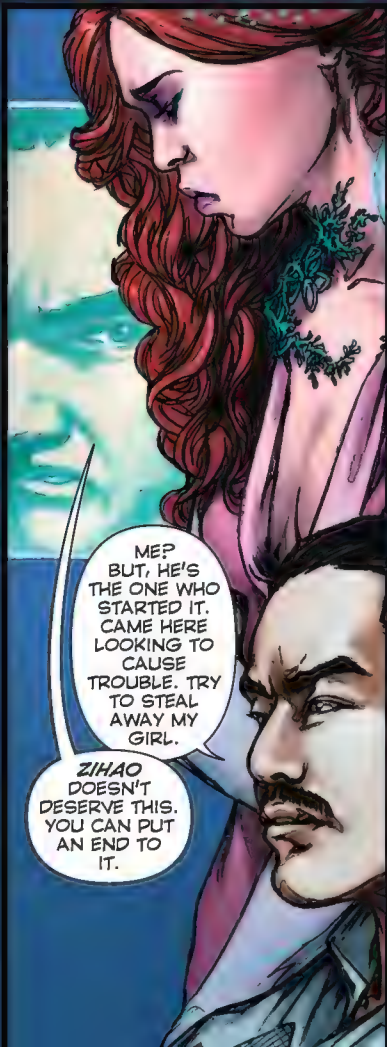
SOME DUDES JUST CAN'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER. EH, BABEP?

YOU CAN BE A REAL BASTARD, LEI. YOU KNOW THAT?

YOU SAY THAT LIKE IT'S A BAD THING.



MAKE IT STOP.



MEP? BUT, HE'S THE ONE WHO STARTED IT. CAME HERE LOOKING TO CAUSE TROUBLE. TRY TO STEAL AWAY MY GIRL.

ZIHAO DOESN'T DESERVE THIS. YOU CAN PUT AN END TO IT.



DONT WORRY, CASSI. I THINK AJAX WILL BE DOING THAT PRETTY SOON. YOUR BOY HERE IS WAY OUTMATCHED.



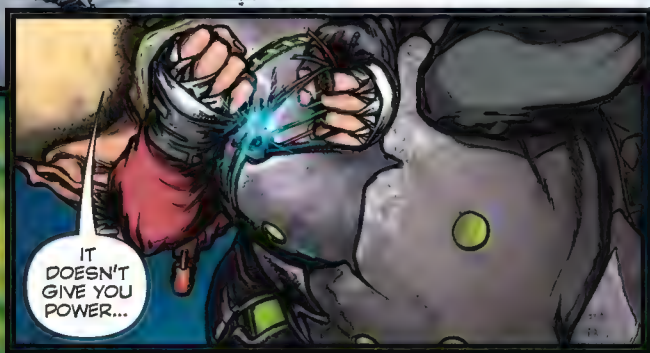
STILL, I GOTTA GIVE HIM CREDIT. HE'S MAKING A GOOD SHOW OF IT.

"A VERY
GOOD SHOW."





ALL THIS
TECHNOLOGY.



IT
DOESN'T
GIVE YOU
POWER...



IT TAKES
IT AWAY.

GAAAAH!





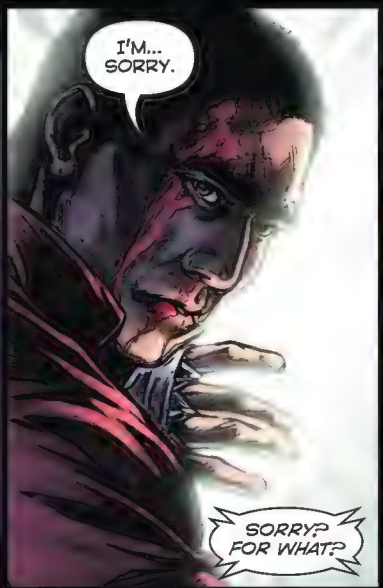
I'M REALLY IMPRESSED.

I REALLY DON'T CARE.

I GET THAT. STILL, NONE OF THIS CHANGES THE OUTCOME THOUGH. YOU WERE ALWAYS GOING TO LOSE.



SHOW'S OVER.

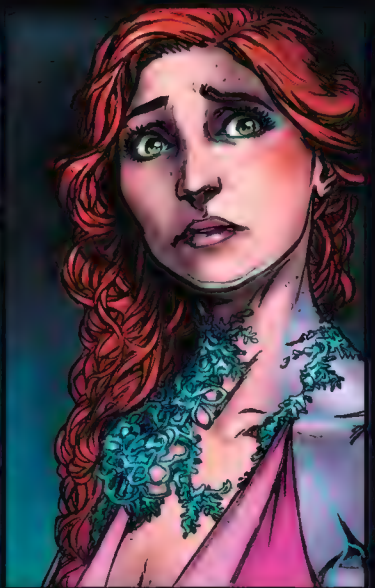


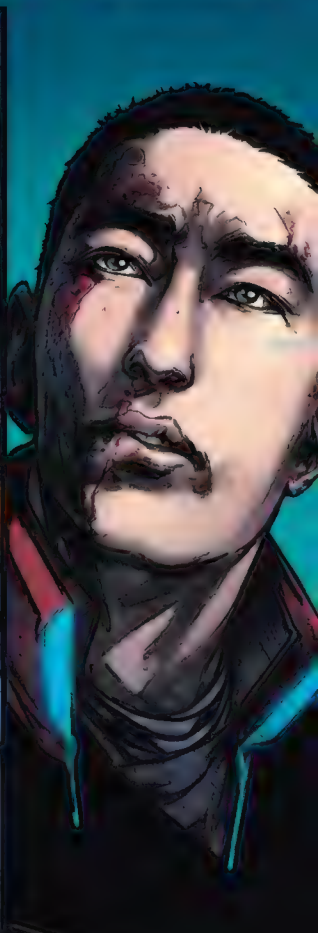
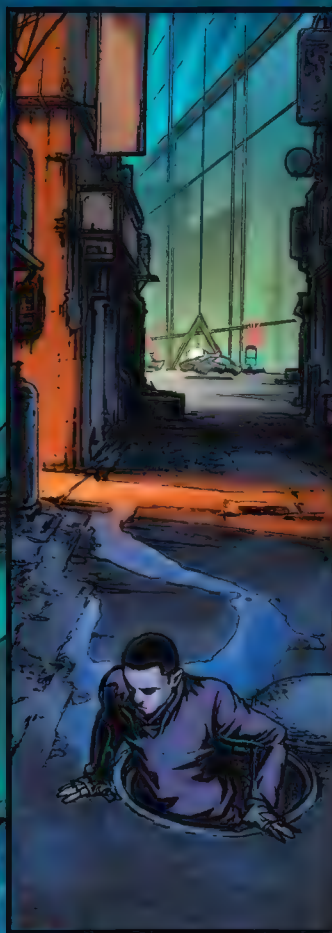
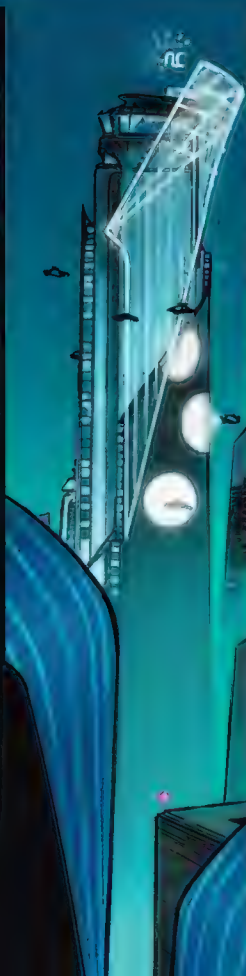
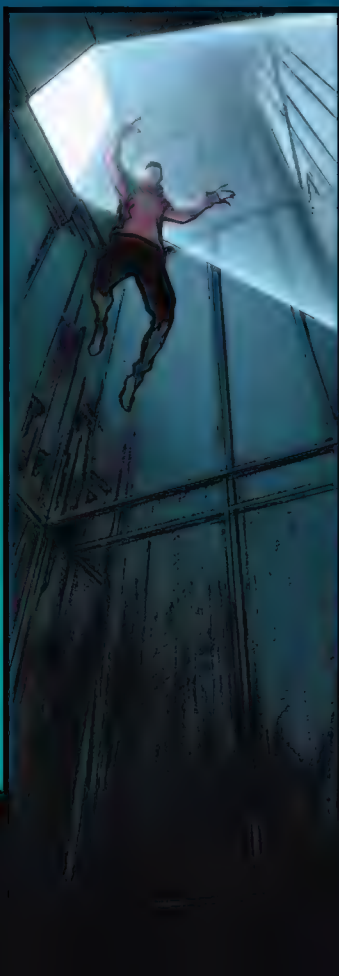
I'M... SORRY.

SORRY FOR WHAT?

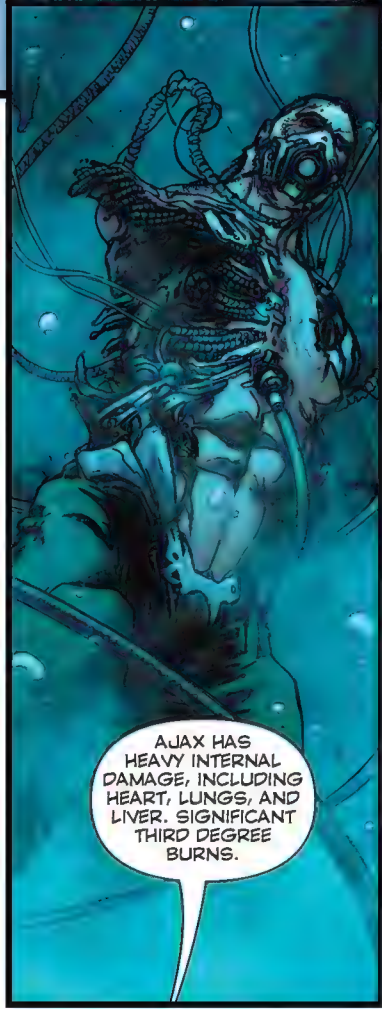


I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU.

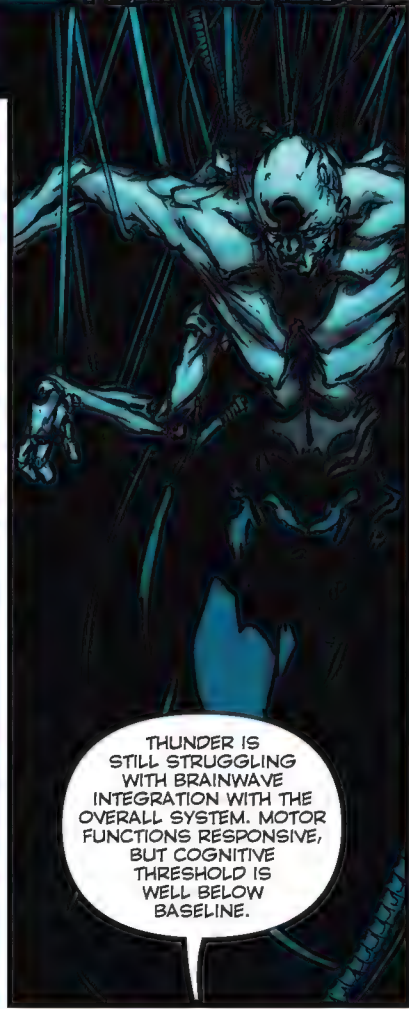




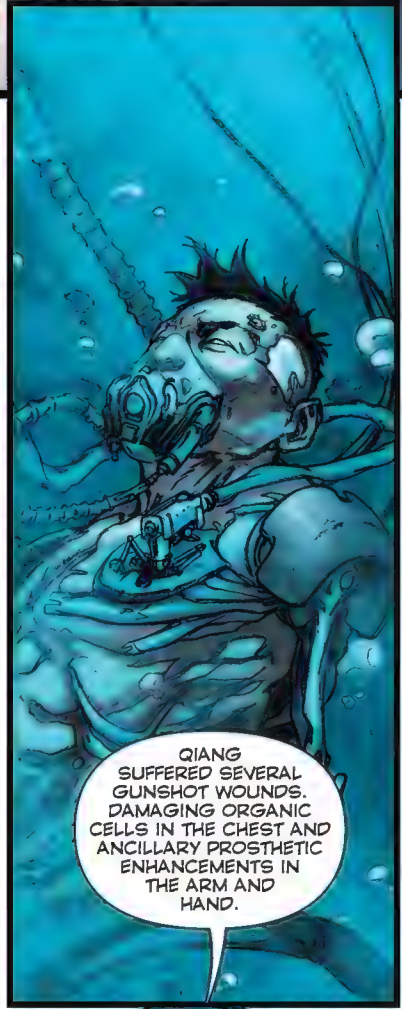
"LET'S HEAR IT. WHAT'S THEIR STATUS?"



AJAX HAS HEAVY INTERNAL DAMAGE, INCLUDING HEART, LUNGS, AND LIVER. SIGNIFICANT THIRD DEGREE BURNS.



THUNDER IS STILL STRUGGLING WITH BRAINWAVE INTEGRATION WITH THE OVERALL SYSTEM. MOTOR FUNCTIONS RESPONSIVE, BUT COGNITIVE THRESHOLD IS WELL BELOW BASELINE.



QIANG SUFFERED SEVERAL GUNSHOT WOUNDS. DAMAGING ORGANIC CELLS IN THE CHEST AND ANCILLARY PROSTHETIC ENHANCEMENTS IN THE ARM AND HAND.



DIDN'T THINK HARPER AND ZIHAO COULD COST ME ANYMORE. LOOKS LIKE I WAS WRONG.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, JASPER?

WHAT WE ALWAYS DO. WE ADAPT. WE ENDURE. WE REBUILD.

ALL OF THEM.

ALL THIS TECHNOLOGY.
IT DOESN'T GIVE
YOU POWER.
IT TAKES IT
AWAY.

...TECHNOLOGY...

...DOESN'T
GIVE...

...POWER...

...IT
TAKES IT
AWAY.

...AWAY.

173 B↑

...AWAY.

分享
评论

...AWAY.

HOW
DOES IT
FEEL,
LEI?

WHAT
ARE YOU
BLATHERING
ABOUT?

YOU'RE SO
USED TO THINGS
GOING YOUR WAY. USING
EVERYONE TO SUIT YOUR
NEEDS. AND, IT LOOKS LIKE
FOR ONCE YOU'RE THE
ONE GETTING USED.

PLEASE. YOUR OLD FLAME GOT A COUPLE
LICKS IN. GOOD FOR HIM. HIS WORDS
ARE MEANINGLESS. DOESN'T MEAN A
THING ON THE BIG SCOREBOARD.

LOOK
AROUND. IN
FIVE MINUTES,
IT'LL BE LIKE IT
NEVER HAPPENED.
WE'LL BE ON TO
THE NEXT THING.
ANOTHER SHINY
OBJECT. LATEST
SCANDAL. NEWEST
GADGET. NOBODY
WILL REMEMBER
HIM.

YOU
WILL. AND,
SO WILL
I.

IT'S SWEET
HOW YOU
THINK HE
MATTERS.
OR THAT
YOU DO.

WE CANNOT
CHANGE WHO WE
ARE. I CAME FROM
SOMETHING AND WILL
THEREFORE ALWAYS
BE SOMETHING. YOU
AND YOUR KIND CAME
FROM NOTHING, AND
SO...YOU SEE MY
POINT?

I DO,
LEI.

NOW,
LET ME
SHOW YOU
MINE.



GAAHHH!



NNNN.
NNN.

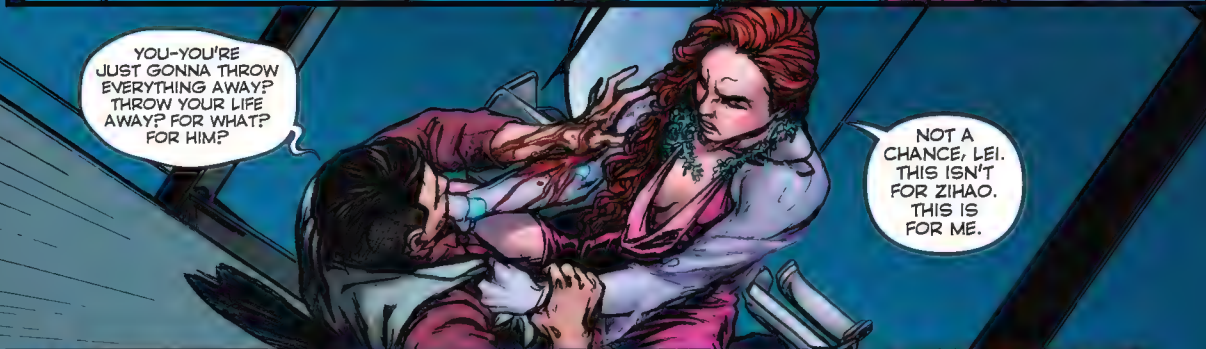
TELL ME,
LEI. WHAT'S IT
LIKE FEELING
HELPLESS?



BECAUSE
I'VE NEVER
EXPERIENCED IT.
OH, I'VE BEEN
SCARED BEFORE.
HUNGRY. ALONE.
LOST. BUT NEVER
HELPLESS.



THAT'S
WHAT YOU NEVER
UNDERSTOOD
ABOUT ME.

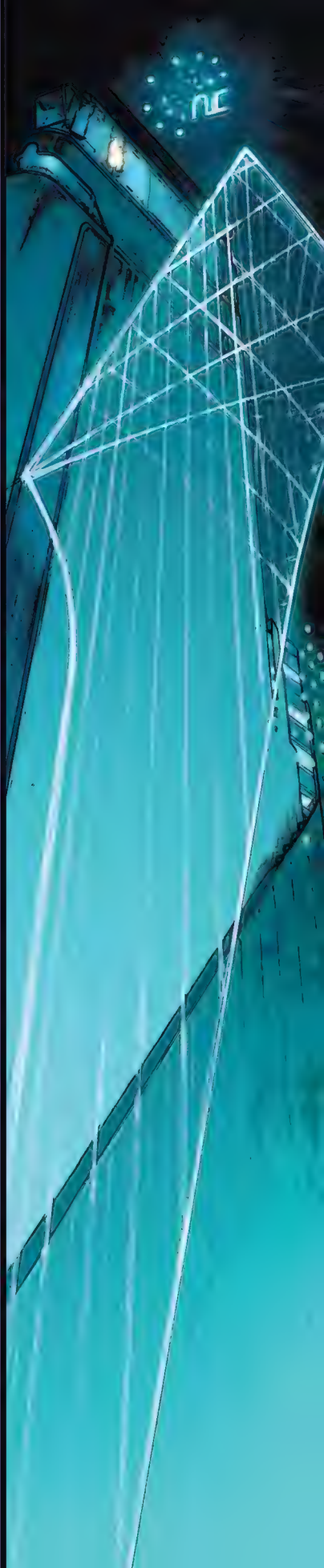
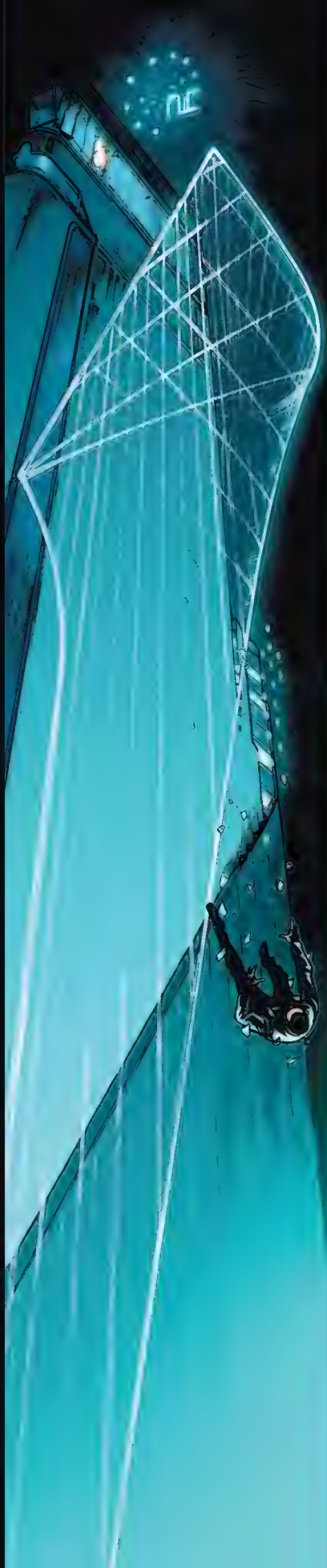


YOU-YOU'RE
JUST GONNA THROW
EVERYTHING AWAY?
THROW YOUR LIFE
AWAY? FOR WHAT?
FOR HIM?

NOT A
CHANCE, LEI.
THIS ISN'T
FOR ZIHAO.
THIS IS
FOR ME.



AND,
I'M NOT
THROWING
EVERYTHING
AWAY.





One of the greatest realizations we learn over the years is that life is fragile.

Seconded only by the realization that life is also resilient.

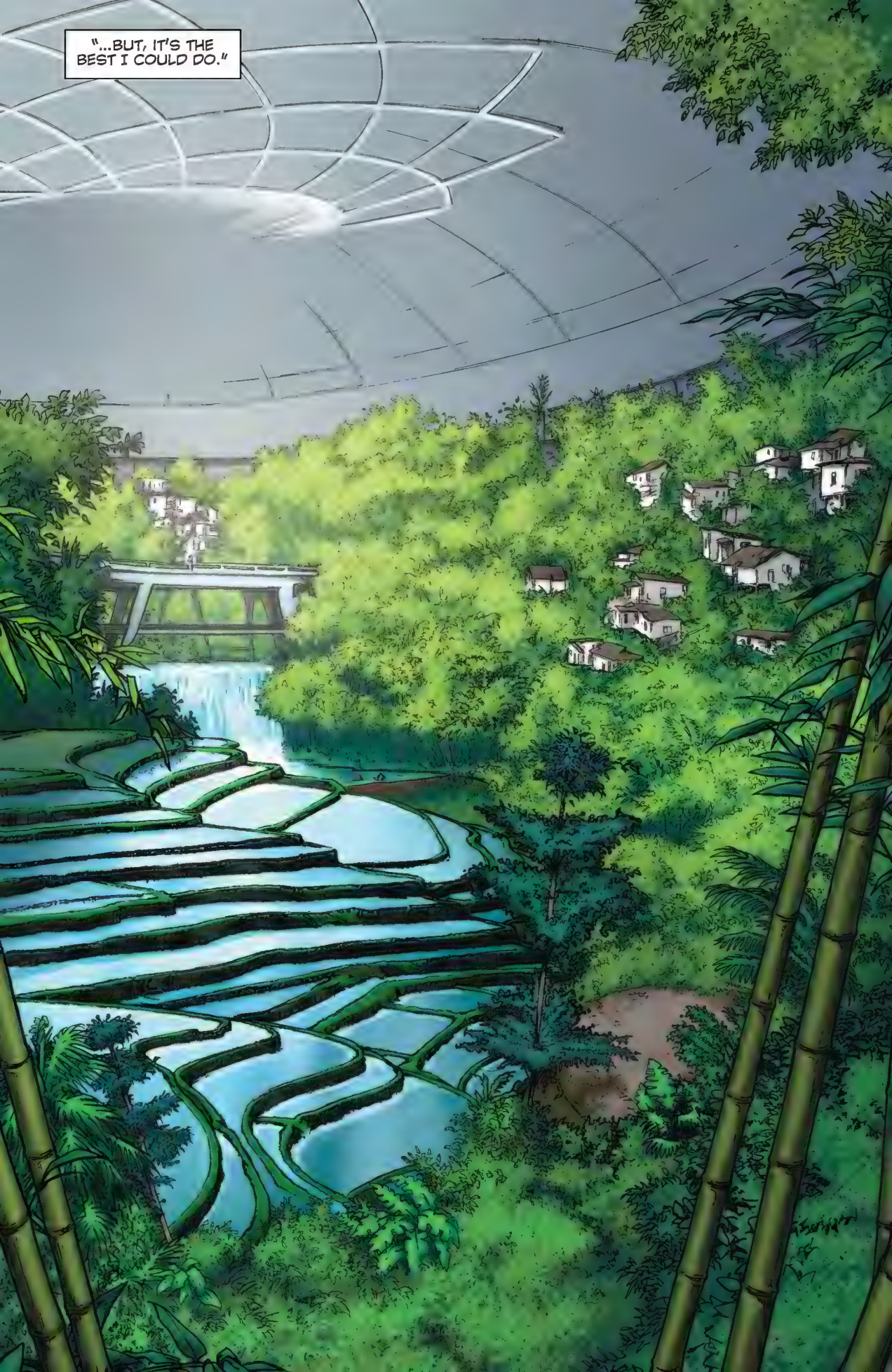


Two sides of the same coin that seems to forever be flipping.



SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK? NOT EXACTLY PARADISE...

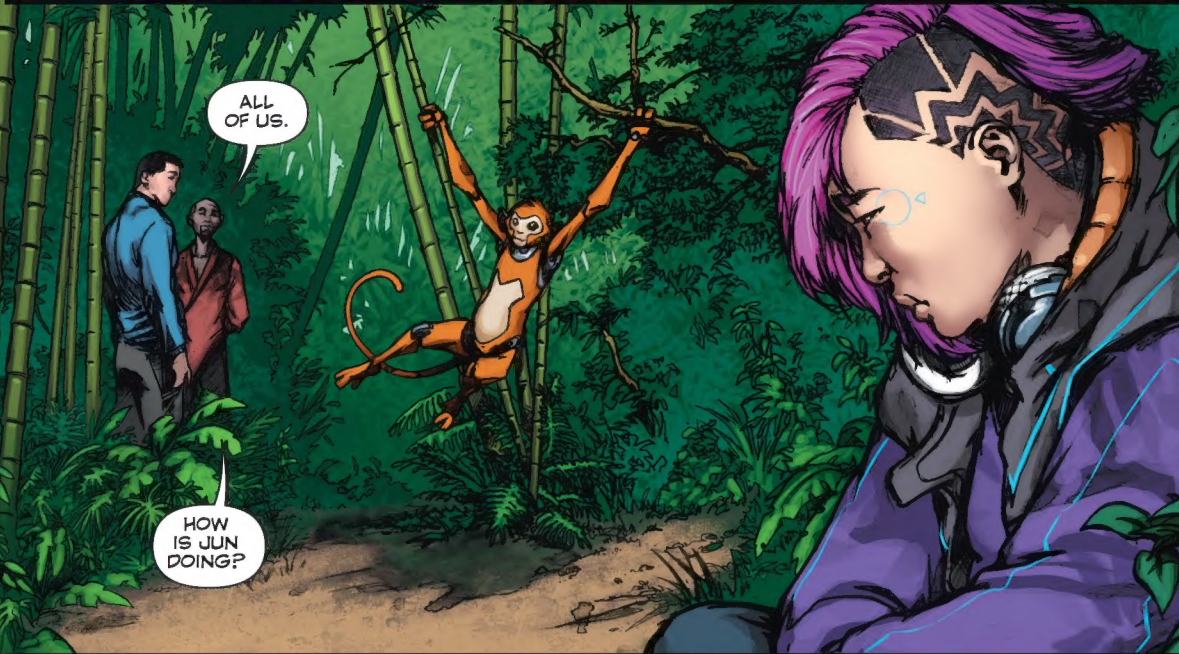
"...BUT, IT'S THE
BEST I COULD DO."





IT'S AMAZING. IF NOT PARADISE, IT IS AT LEAST AN OASIS. A MUCH-NEEDED RELIEF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.

WELL, WE'VE REALLY BEEN THROUGH THE RINGER, SO I FIGURED WE DESERVED SOME RELIEF.



ALL OF US.

HOW IS JUN DOING?

WELL, SHE'S LOST EVERYTHING. INCLUDING HER BROTHER.

AND WHILE SHE'S PROBABLY KILLED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE PLAYING VIDEO GAMES, I'M BETTING THOSE WERE THE FIRST LIVES SHE'S EVER TAKEN IN COLD BLOOD.

SO, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.



"SHE'S A WRECK."



SEEMS
LIKE HE
LIKES IT
HERE.

THAT
MAKES
ONE OF
US.



WHERE'S
YOUR
GIRL?

DIDN'T
WORK OUT.
COULDN'T
REACH HER
AFTER ALL.

SO, IT
WAS ALL FOR
NOTHING.



I'M SORRY, JUN.
THE LAST THING
I WANTED TO DO WAS
PUT ANYONE ELSE
IN DANGER.

I THOUGHT
I COULD JUST GET
AWAY. LEAVE THIS
WORLD BEHIND. DIDN'T
THINK ANYONE
WOULD CARE.



THERE
AIN'T NO
ESCAPING
ANYTHING.

I KNOW THAT,
NOW. CAN'T RUN.
CAN'T BURY MY HEAD IN
THE SAND. ONLY OPTION
IS TO STAY AND FIGHT.



SO, WHAT
HAPPENS
NOW?

I HAVE
NO IDEA.

"SUCH A TRAGIC DAY. HIS LOSS IS TREMENDOUS. IT IS ONLY NATURAL TO FEEL THAT WAY. HELPLESS."

"WE ARE TRYING OUR BEST TO NAVIGATE THROUGH THESE DIFFICULT TIMES."

BUT, LET'S MAKE ONE THING CLEAR. I AM THE ONE STEERING THIS SHIP, NOW.

YES. OF COURSE, MS. WANG.

THE COMPANY BELONGS TO ME.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE ONE RESPONSIBLE?

I'VE SEEN THE FOOTAGE, BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HANDING IT OVER TO THE POLICE.

THIS IS A FAMILY MATTER.

